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SANATANA DHARMA

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More to urea shortage than meets the eye

KALABURAGI

The increased demand for urea and the reported non-availability of the same in the market, leading to protests by farmers in some districts, have more to it than what meets the eye. » PAGE 8

Dept. halts pvt. walking tours in Cubbon Park

BENGALURU

After beginning its guided walking tour, Cubbon Walks, a week ago, the Horticulture Department has now halted private walking tours inside the Cubbon Park. » PAGE 7

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Lieutenant-Colonel booked for assaulting airline staff

Peerzada Ashiq
Jagriti Chandra
SRINAGAR/NEW DELHI

Violent turn: CCTV footage shows the Army officer confronting the ground staff at the Srinagar airport on July 26. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A Lieutenant-Colonel of the Army has been booked by the Jammu and Kashmir Police for allegedly assaulting and severely injuring the ground staff of SpiceJet at the Srinagar airport on July 26. The Army extended its "full cooperation" to the investigation.

A first information report under Sections 115(2), 126(2), 351(2), and 131 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita has been lodged at the Budgam police station against Lieutenant-Colonel Ritesh Kumar Singh, who is currently posted at the High Altitude Warfare School in Gulmarg in northern Kashmir.

'Aggressive behaviour'

The altercation started at boarding gate no. 2 minutes before the scheduled departure of a SpiceJet flight (SG-386) to Delhi. The officer, allegedly with cabin baggage weighing more than twice the permitted limit, refused the airline staff's instruction to pay for excess baggage. He forcibly entered the aerobridge without completing boarding, violating security protocols. He became aggressive while being escorted back by a CISF official, and physically assaulted four SpiceJet ground staff members, the airline said.

In a statement on Sunday, the Army said: "The matter involving an alleged altercation between an Army personnel and airline staff at Srinagar Airport on 26 July has come to the notice of the Indian Army. The Indian Army is committed to upholding the highest standards of discipline and conduct, and takes all allegations seriously." It said it would extend "full cooperation to the authorities in investigating the case".

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EC asks Tejashwi to give voter ID card for probe

Commission says document produced by RJD leader at press meet does not seem to be 'formally issued'; party says panel acting at the BJP's behest to divert attention from questions over the rolls

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Tejashwi Yadav addressing a press conference in Patna on Saturday where he said his name was omitted from the draft voter list. ANI

The Election Commission (EC) on Sunday asked Tejashwi Yadav, Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, to provide details of his voter ID card for a "thorough investigation".

This comes a day after he alleged that his name was missing from the draft electoral rolls published in the State on Friday.

In a letter to the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader, the Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) of the Digha constituency said the elector photo identity card (EPIC) that Mr. Yadav claimed as his did not appear to be formally issued. "Therefore, you are requested to provide the details of the mentioned EPIC card (along with the original copy of the card) undersigned, so that it can be thoroughly investigated," the letter said without mentioning any deadline.

Party responds

Reacting to the letter, RJD spokesperson Chittaranjan Gagan said the commission, acting at the behest of the BJP, wanted to divert attention from questions about the draft rolls raised by Mr. Yadav and other leaders of the INDIA bloc.

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NDA SEEKS LEGAL ACTION
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'Bio-fortified potatoes to hit Indian market soon'

A.M. Jigeesh
NEW DELHI

Simon Heck

Bio-fortified potatoes, with added iron content, will soon be available in Indian markets, said Simon Heck, Director-General of the Peru-based International Potato Center (CIP), in an interview with *The Hindu*. Bio-fortified sweet potatoes, with vitamin A added using technology developed by the CIP, are already available in Karnataka, Assam, West Bengal, and Odisha. The CIP, an apex research body of international research institutions working on tubular crops, will take efforts to make the seeds of bio-fortified sweet potato available to more farmers, said Dr. Heck, currently in India for the establishment of the CIP South Asia regional centre in Agra.

The focus is on iron fortification in potatoes. "We have already shared the germ plasm with the Indian Council of Agricultural Research's Central Potato Institute in Shimla. The first variety has been released in Peru", he said.

"Now it is under the evaluation of the ICAR, and it needs to be adapted to the Indian growing conditions," Dr. Heck added.

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Tibetan flair

Workers restoring a stupa at the Tibetan settlement in Odeyarapalya in Chamarajanagar district. The stupa is part of the larger Tibetan cultural landscape in the area, which includes monasteries and other religious structures. K. MURALI KUMAR

Modi to inaugurate Yellow Line on August 10

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Yellow Line of Namma Metro on August 10 and lay the foundation stone for Metro Phase 3, also known as the Orange Line.

Manohar Lal Khattar, Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs, and Tejasvi Surya, Bangalore South MP, made the announcement on their X accounts on Sunday.

They also said that the Prime Minister would also lay the foundation stone for 44.65 km of Metro Phase 3 at a cost of ₹15,611 crore on August 10. The Yellow and THE Orange Lines together will benefit nearly 25 lakh people in Bengaluru South, Mr. Surya posted on Sunday.

The 19.15-km Yellow Line, built at a cost of ₹5,056.99 crore, connects R.V. Road and Bommasandra in South Bengaluru and includes 16 stations, such as BTM Layout, Silk Board, Electronics City, and Hebbagodi. Once operational, the line is expected to ease traffic congestion in several major bottlenecks and heavily congested corridors.

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Crime by Prajwal could be construed as an offence against society at large: Court

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna FILE PHOTO

The Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs while awarding "imprisonment for the remainder of his natural life" to former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna, said that the offence in this case "could be construed as an offence committed towards the society at large wherein women are worshiped".

In his order, judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat further said that "the question of commission of an offence by a legislator is a serious aspect".

'David vs Goliath'

Terming the case, where the victim is a former help at the accused's family farm as a "David vs Goliath" battle, Mr. Bhat said that "committing sexual offences against a maid and other women in society by showing disdain towards them due to their economic condition is a grave offence" and that "the act of committing forcible sexual intercourse on the victim repeatedly would be more than committing of murder".

Quoting the Sanskrit saying "*Dharmo Rakshati Rakshitaha...*", the judge said that "dharma should not be destroyed so that we may not be destroyed as a consequence thereof" and awarded the maximum punishment under Section 376(2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman) of Indian Penal Code for Prajwal Revanna.

The judgment rejects appeals for leniency by the convict's counsel on the grounds that he has to look after his former Prime Minister grandfather and aging parents and that he had no criminal antecedents, among other grounds.

Victim's statement

The 480-page judgment examines the victim's statement at length and considers depositions by multiple witnesses, including her sister who was working with her and other family members, Prajwal's driver Karthik, who allegedly copied the explicit clips from the MP's phone, to corroborate the same and rejected defence's arguments that there were contradictions in the same.

The defence had argued that the victim had never worked at the Gannikada farmhouse and it did not belong to the Revanna family in 2021, when the crime was committed. It further argued that the victim was unable to tell the date of the crimes.

However, the court concludes that the depositions by Karthik, the victim's sister and the victim's son studying at a school in Gannikada for three years, proved that she worked there.

Further, the defence's contradictory stands itself indicated that they accepted that she worked at the farm, the court concludes. Further, the farmhouse belonged to Bhavani Revanna's brother Prakash since 2015 and was bought by Suraj Revanna in October, 2021 and the family, including Prajwal was using the same, the court concludes through multiple witnesses.

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A BG-BGE

Why Women in Blue's twin success in England really matters

Harmanpreet's India, which registered its first T20I series victory in the Old Blighty since 2006 and a second consecutive ODI series win, will be upbeat after new stars emerge and its fielding improves considerably

GETTY IMAGES

P.K. Ajith Kumar

It is turning out to be an Indian summer in England.

The brave young Indian Test team has exceeded expectations to keep the series alive going into the last day of the fifth Test at The Oval. The spirited fightback by Washington Sundar and Ravindra Jadeja at Old Trafford ensured that the Indians could travel from Manchester to London for the final Test with their heads held high.

India's Under-19 team also showed in England that the nation's cricket looks bright in the longer term as well, winning the ODI series and drawing both Tests.

India's female cricketers have done even better. They won their first ever T20I series against England. And they followed it up by winning the ODI series as well.

Granted, this England side is still in a process of transition, under a new captain in Nat Sciver-Brunt and new coach in Charlotte Edwards – both popular in India because of their mighty successful association for Mumbai Indians at the Women's Premier League.

England had a disastrous tour Down Under. They were thrashed by arch rival Australia rather badly.

The Englishwomen lost all the three ODIs, three T20Is and the one-off Test, forcing captain Heather Knight and coach Jon Lewis to leave their positions. So Edwards and Sciver-Brunt had a task on their hands when they assumed charge for the white-ball series against the West Indies.

And they got off to a perfect start to their partnership, as England won every match against a not-so-strong West Indies side (3-0 in both ODIs and T20Is). That, however, would prove a false dawn.

Despite the humiliation in Australia, nobody could doubt the class of this England women's team.

In Sciver-Brunt, they have the most complete player in international women's cricket, and they have depth in batting as well as bowling.

So India's success in England really matters.

It was in England nearly two decades ago that the Indian women played their first ever T20I. And they ensured it was a memorable occasion, winning the match by eight wickets at Derby in 2006.

But, it has taken them 19 years to win another T20I series against England. In all the six bilateral series in the shortest format before this, England had been the winner.

The Indians won the five-match series with a game to spare. And their wins were authoritative, by 97 runs at Nottingham, by 24 runs at Bristol and by six wickets at Manchester, while England nosed ahead by five runs at The Oval and squeaked through off the last ball at Birmingham.

REUTERS

India then went on to win the ODI series 2-1. The teams were level going into the final ODI: India had won the opening match by four wickets at Southampton but the host bounced back in the rain-affected second game winning by eight wickets.

In the decider at Chester-le-Street, India won by 13 runs. Skipper Harmanpreet Kaur and seamer Kranti Goud were the architects. And that assumes significance, with the ODI World Cup not far away hosted by India and the island nation Sri Lanka.

The biggest event in women's cricket, in fact, gets underway with the match between Sri Lanka and India on September 30, scheduled to be held in Bengaluru.

Harmanpreet's slump in form might have been a worry for the team management. Before the final ODI against England, her scores in the white-ball international matches had read 1, 23, 26, 15, 17 and 7. And her last ODI fifty had come in October 2024. India will need its captain by the time the World Cup arrived.

She dedicated her hundred (102 in 84 balls in the final ODI) to her father. "He has been waiting for this kind of knock," she said. "I was a little under pressure and wanted to do well for the team and when you work hard, the right time to deliver will come."

She delivered in style that too after taking 11 balls to get off the mark. She has been one of the hardest hitters in the women's game, and she can turn a match around without taking much time. Thanks to the massive popularity of the Women's Premier League (WPL), the world has seen her doing that for Mumbai Indians on quite a few occasions.

The WPL has, of course, proved quite a boon for Indian women's cricket. Right from its inaugural edition in 2023, the tournament has given Indian cricket several young exciting talents. Two of them really stood out on the tour of England.

Left-arm spinner Sree Charani took four for 12 in the first T20I and went on to finish with 10 wickets in the series and was named the Player-of-the-Series. She could prove to be yet another option in the rather long list of spinners for India. She is just 20.

Kranti is a year older. The bowler from Madhya Pradesh has been a revelation and probably the biggest gain from the tour. She took six for 52 to bowl India to that ODI series victory at Chester-le-Street and became the youngest Indian bowler to take six wickets in an ODI.

After that sensational spell, Harmanpreet wanted to share the Player-of-the-Match award with Kranti, and said, "We have been dying for a fast bowler like you."

True. Kranti could really sharpen the Indian attack. She can work up a good pace, nip the ball back in dangerously and be intimidating with her yorkers. She had made it to the Indian squad during the Sri Lankan tour, before the England series, following Kashvee Gautam's injury. She is one pacer Indian women's cricket has to take care of.

Amanjot Kaur is another youngster who contributed significantly to India's success story in England. The seaming all-rounder's unbeaten 63 in the second T20I – she came in with India in some trouble at 31 for three inside the PowerPlay – ensured the team had enough runs on the board.

One also recalls Amanjot bowling some fine spells at the Women's T20 Challenger at Raipur in 2022 and impressing the talent scouts for the WPL, weeks ahead of the first edition's auction. She was picked up by Mumbai Indians for ₹50 lakh. She has served her franchise well, with both bat and ball.

Now that she has finally reached fifty in international cricket – she had made a 30-ball 41 on her T20I debut against South Africa in 2023 – she could be more confident about batting.

The return of Shafali Verma also augurs for India's batting. She made her comeback count with some fine knocks, including 75 off just 41 balls in the final T20I. India could exploit her explosive batting in the fifty-over format as well. The team could do well with a phenomenal talent like her at the World Cup.

The way India fielded in England should also make the team management happy.

Though the Women in Blue have often shown sparks of brilliance on the field, especially through some incredible catches by Radha Yadav and Harleen Deol, they have not always been as consistent as they have been on this tour.

This time there was an all-round effort on the field, and that helped India win some crucial moments, such as the stunning catch Deepti Sharma took with one hand to dismiss Amy Jones off Kranti in the final ODI.

In the same match, there was another diving catch, by Jemimah Rodrigues to send back Charlie Dean, again off Kranti.

The Indians should maintain the high standard in fielding during their World Cup campaign. Before that, there is the three-match ODI series against Australia coming up.

Harmanpreet's side could not have asked for an ideal preparation.

THE GIST

- Across formats and squads, there has never been a better India tour of England with the men's, under-19 and women's teams leaving a lasting impression with each match
- The Indian women's double triumph has come at a time when the England side is led by the explosive captain-coach partnership in Sciver-Brunt and Edwards
- It was an all-round show by Harmanpreet's side, with Kranti, Amanjot and Sree Charani hogging the spotlight

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नारी सुरक्षा
नारी सम्मान
नारी स्वावलंबन

Women are the symbol of strength, and they are sacred as per the traditions of the Sanatan Dharm. The festival of Navratri is the proof of that.

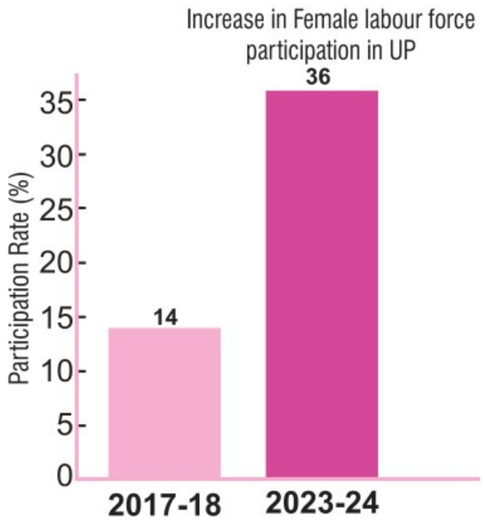
–Yogi Adityanath
Chief Minister, Uttar Pradesh

Our Matru Shakti is our pride. Women empowerment is very crucial to our development.

-Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

MISSION UNNATI

Uttar Pradesh Women: New Aspirations, Progress, and Empowerment



Over 34.65% of construction workers in UP are women

53% of registered workers on the e-Shram portal are women

Enhanced participation reinforces the pursuit of a $1 trillion economy

WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT INDEX (WEE INDEX) *By the Planning Department, Government of Uttar Pradesh, in collaboration with The Udayti Foundation,* Uttar Pradesh has made a bold move toward inclusive growth with the launch of the Women's Economic Empowerment Index (WEE Index). This innovative tool is designed to boost women's participation in the economy by promoting dignity, safety, and equal opportunities. But the WEE Index is more than just a number-it's a roadmap for meaningful change. It's now guiding data-driven policies across the state, helping identify where women are thriving and where more support is needed.

In Uttar Pradesh, women are no longer waiting for change-they are leading it. From aspirations to achievements, Mission Unnati is enabling women to rise, thrive, and shape a new economic destiny for the state.

In a landmark push towards inclusive development, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has accelerated its focus on Women's Economic Empowerment (WEE). Guided by the vision of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and aligned with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's call for Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam, the state has deployed data-driven governance, targeted schemes, and institutional reforms to integrate women across all sectors of the economy. The unveiling of the Women Economic Empowerment (WEE) Index, expansion of rural livelihoods, and increased participation in skilled employment and entrepreneurship mark a defining shift in the empowerment narrative. The new milestones reflect a move beyond welfare-to agency, productivity, and financial independence.

WOMEN WELFARE SCHEMES–UTTAR PRADESH (FY 2025–26)

SCHEME	KEY BENEFIT	BENEFICIARIES / DATA (2025–26)
Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao	Awareness, education, gender equality	Till date, 3,956 events have celebrated the birth of 37,500 girls
Mukhyamantri Kanya Sumangala Yojana	Rs. 25,000 in 6 phases for girl child support	1.87 lakh girls; Rs. 74.22 Cr disbursed
Widow Pension Scheme	Rs.1,000/month pension to eligible widows	35.78 lakh women (Q1 FY 2025–26)
Rani Laxmibai Compensation Fund	RS. 1–10 lakh compensation for crime victims	1,250 women; Rs. 41.75 Cr compensation
CM Working Women Hostels	500-bed hostels in 7 cities for working women	Including Kanpur, Varanasi, Jhansi, Meerut
Sakhi Niwas (13 cities)	Safe working women's hostels (in progress)	50-bed hostels planned in major cities
Shakti Sadan (10 districts)	Protective shelter homes under Samarthya	Construction planned in 10 districts
Hub for Empowerment of Women	Gender, health, legal awareness; scheme linkage	1.32 lakh reached; 15,158 linked to the scheme so far
One Stop Centres (OSC)	Legal, medical, police aid for violence victims	Till now, 2.21 lakh cases have been handled
Women Helpline-181	24x7 emergency toll-free helpline	Till date, assistance has been provided to 8.02 lakh women
Krishna Kutir, Vrindavan	Shelter for destitute women	340 women currently housed

Empowering Women, Securing Futures

Mission Shakti 5.0

Launched on October 3, 2024, during the auspicious festival of Navratri, Mission Shakti 5.0 marks a renewed commitment by the Uttar Pradesh Government to uplift, safeguard, and empower women and children across the state. Under the visionary leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, this flagship initiative continues to evolve as a dynamic campaign focused on ensuring women's safety, dignity, and economic self-reliance.

- **18 new Sakhi Niwas hostels for safe, affordable women's housing**
- **7,500 girls mentored as admin officers for a day**
- **Large scale safety & awareness drives: Girl Child Day to Swavlamban Camp**
- **Workshops on self defence, rights & entrepreneurship underway**

UP Govt Reduces Stamp Duty for Women Property Owners

The Uttar Pradesh Cabinet has approved a 1% stamp duty concession on property registered in women's names, for values up to Rs.1 crore.This initiative promotes women's ownership, financial independence, and aligns with Mission Shakti goals.It especially benefits middle-income women and encourages greater social participation. Earlier, the limit was set at property worth Rs.10 lakh, relief has now been significantly expanded.

Helpline Number

Women Power Line - 1090
Women Helpline - 181
UP Police - 112
Child Helpline - 1098
Cyber Crime - 1930

A BG-BGE

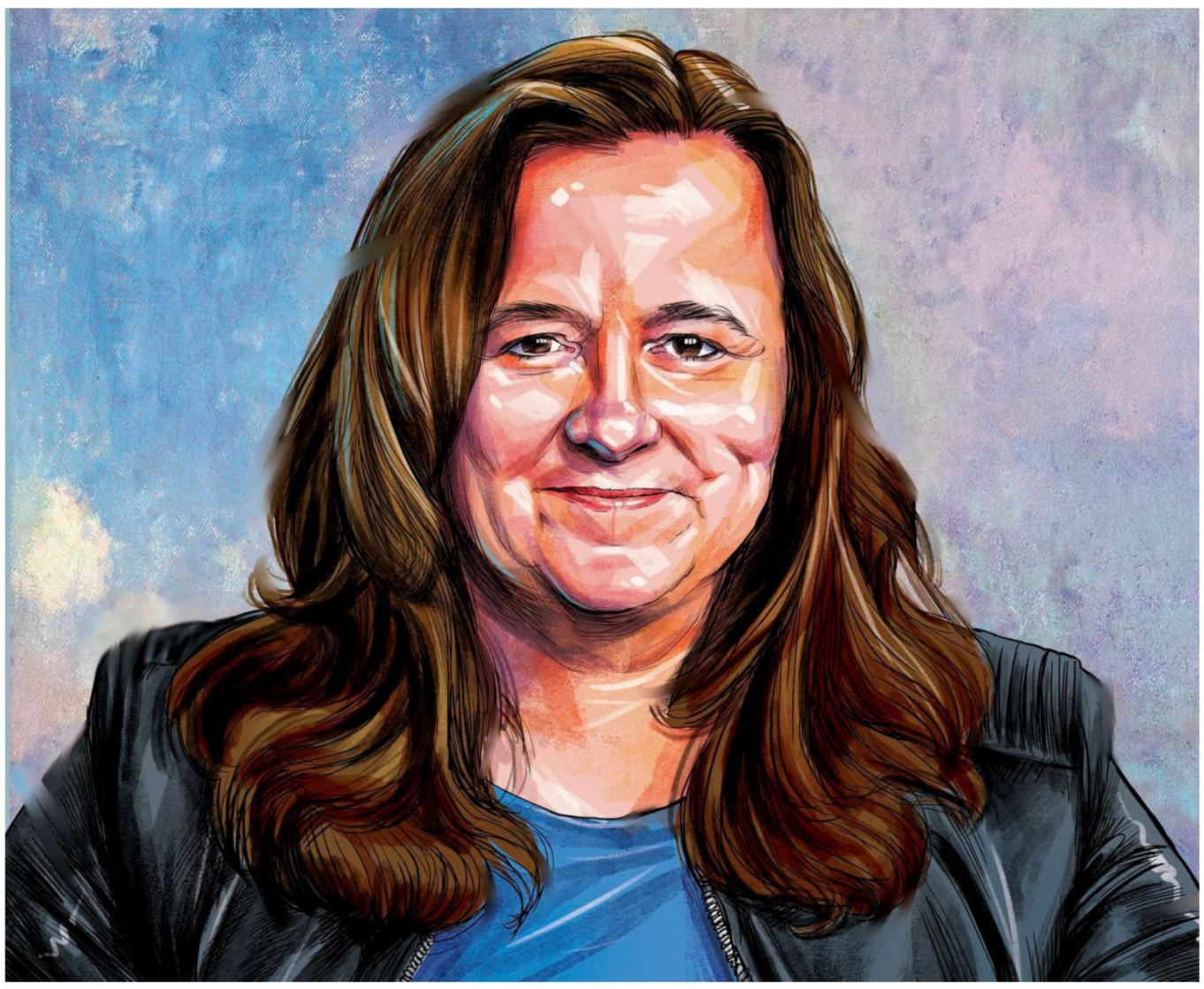
‘Anything that moves, NISAR will see with unprecedented fidelity’

A conversation with Karen St. Germain, director of the Earth Science Division at NASA’s Science Mission Directorate, on the ‘extraordinary new capability’ NISAR represents for ISRO and NASA; a satellite that has been 11 years in the making has implications for the study of other planets too

INTERVIEW

Karen St. Germain

Vasudevan Mukunth
Kunal Shankar



Karen St. Germain ILLUSTRATION: SOUMYADIP SINHA

On July 31, ISRO launched the NASA-ISRO Synthetic Aperture Radar (NISAR) satellite, a flagship earth observation mission jointly developed by the two space agencies. It’s the first satellite to use radars of two frequencies to monitor the earth’s surface. NISAR will enhance climate resilience, agricultural monitoring, and disaster response. To discuss the milestone, **Vasudevan Mukunth** and **Kunal Shankar** spoke to **Karen St. Germain**, director of the Earth Science Division at the Science Mission Directorate at NASA, to understand the mission’s science goals. To watch the full interview, visit *newsth.live/nisarscience*.

Vasudevan Mukunth: Karen, thank you so much for joining us today. Can you give us a few examples of scientific studies that are possible with NISAR, but haven’t been possible so far with the existing crop of earth observation satellites?

Karen St. Germain: Absolutely, and it’s great to be with you. The way to think about NISAR is that it will see anything that has structure to it that moves, that changes its position at a scale of less than a centimetre over an area about half of a tennis court. When I say anything that has structure: it could be forest, it could be buildings, it could be glaciers, mountains, land. Anything that moves, we’ll see at an unprecedented level of fidelity.

What that means is we will be able to see the slight bulging that happens before a volcano erupts. We’ll be able to see the land becoming unstable before a landslide. We’ll be able to see building shifts after an earthquake or any other sort of event. When a forest gets cut down, we’ll be able to see that. Anything that changes, we’ll be able to see, and that’s an extraordinary new capability for us.

Kunal Shankar: After the launch, NISAR will start its 90-day commissioning phase. In this phase, do you foresee any challenges with calibration, especially with cross-band calibration?

Karen St. Germain: There are a number of different aspects to the calibration. Largely the ISRO team will focus on calibrating the S-band radar and the NASA team will focus on calibrating the L-band radar. They don’t really get cross-calibrated, but each one will look at its own special targets.

Now, what do I mean by a target? It’s something we call a corner reflector and it is exactly what it sounds like. It’s a corner, just like the corner of a room. And it has a special feature, which is that when a pulse of energy hits it from any direction, it reflects back in exactly the same direction. So we use these targets to calibrate independently each of the instruments. And then the only other thing we really have to pay special attention to is the alignment, the pointing. Are they pointing in the same place on the ground? And for that, we’ll use the data itself. So the data itself will identify features and we’ll align those features from each radar.

Kunal Shankar: Speaking of costs, there’s a lot of interest about the commercial aspect and the applications aspect of NISAR. Could you just tell us a bit about the kind of interest that it has generated?

Karen St. Germain: Actually, let me take a step back and talk about earth observation data in general because understanding the earth – the surface, the atmosphere, and the changes large and small that can have impacts on communities and businesses, that’s become an enormous area of interest. In fact, NASA’s been collecting data on the earth system for more than 60 years now. And we find that about three quarters of our Fortune 100 companies are drawing something out of that earth observation archive. We also find that about 75% of our users, and we have more than 5 million users, are coming from .com addresses. So we are talking about agriculture producers, the insurance industry, the finance industry, the transportation industry. And that’s before you even get to things like disaster response. So we have a tremendous interest in general.

For NISAR specifically, we know that NISAR will produce data that can directly benefit agriculture, also risk assessment – everything from natural hazards like earthquakes and volcanoes, which are both issues in the US but also things like wildfire risk because NISAR will be able to characterise how much fuel is in our wildlands. So that’s dry fuel that is burnable. There are all these application areas. One of the things that we do that we’re really excited about is any time we launch a new mission, we have an Early Adopters program. These are people out there who anticipate what NISAR might do for them in their business. We don’t require that they tell us a lot about what they intend to do. But right now for NISAR, we have at least 200 of these Early Adopters. Once the data start to roll out and the excitement builds, we expect it to take off from there.

Vasudevan Mukunth: Can you say why NISAR took 11 years to build? Were there any particularly difficult engineering challenges that you had to overcome first?

Karen St. Germain: Yeah, absolutely. First, it’s an enormously complex system, with many dozens of subassemblies that had to be designed. Of course, to make these two radars work together and operate through a single reflector, there’s a lot of design work that had to happen up front. So it was challenging to begin with. And then we had a couple of other particular challenges. This one happened right as I was starting my job: COVID hit. So think about an integrated engineering team already separated by time zones and distance and now having to work through a global pandemic. A lot of this work also had to happen in person. We had people who had to travel at the height of COVID, and had to leave their families. Remember that the waves of COVID hit differently in the US and India. We had people on both teams sometimes come down with COVID when they were in the opposite country, so we had to take care of one another’s teams. Then we had to develop entirely new protocols for how people could work together in a space and remain healthy. That was a big one.

More recently, this reflector is enormous, it’s about a 40-foot deployable reflector. And when we were in India integrating and we were testing in the thermal vacuum, we saw some data that worried us. We were really afraid that there may be too much of a thermal load on that reflector before it gets deployed, and it might overheat. If it did that, it could challenge the structural integrity. Of course, when you’ve got a deployable antenna, if it doesn’t stay taut, it doesn’t reflect the way you want it to. So we ended up de-mating that reflector, bringing it back home, applying a reflective coating so the sun couldn’t cause it to overheat, on the struts (not on the reflector surface itself). Then we had to ship it back and reintegrate. So we had a couple of technical challenges, which we expect when you’re doing something as difficult as this.

Vasudevan Mukunth: Both the L-band and the S-band radars use the same reflector. Since S-band has a shorter wavelength than the L-band, does this create any trade-offs in either L-band or S-band performance?

Karen St. Germain: It doesn’t. And the reason for that is because this is a synthetic aperture radar. It creates its spatial resolution as it moves along. Each radar is taking snapshots as it moves along. You know, to get this kind of centimeter level fidelity and the kind of spatial resolution we’re achieving, if you were to use a solid antenna, it would have to be five miles long. Just like when you’re talking about a camera, if you want to be able to get high fidelity, you need a big lens. Same idea. But we can’t deploy an antenna that big. So what we do is we build up image after image after image to get that resolution. And because of this technique, it’s actually independent of wavelength. It works the same for S- and for L-bands. The only thing that’s a little different is because the antenna feeds for the L-band and the S-band can’t physically occupy the same space, they have to be next to each other and that means there’s a slight difference in the way their pulses reflect off the antenna. There’s that positioning difference, and that we can correct for.

Vasudevan Mukunth: Could you tell us a little bit more about that slight difference?

Karen St. Germain: It’s the way a reflector works. You would ideally want to put the feed at the focal point of the reflector. But when you have two feeds, you can’t do that. So they’re slightly offset. That means they illuminate the reflector just slightly differently. The alignment is just a little bit different. The team optimised the design to minimize that difference and to make it so that they could correct it in post-processing.

Kunal Shankar: How do NASA and JPL’s radar systems for planetary exploration feed into and evolve from their earth observation systems?

Karen St. Germain: Once you have expertise in a technology, you can use it in many, many ways.

And this is often the case in NASA between earth science and planetary science. One of us will develop a new technology or advance a new technology and then it can be used very broadly. So absolutely! And we love that kind of interplay. I love seeing earth science technologies make it into planetary missions.

That’s one aspect. The other thing is what we learn from NISAR on earth can inform what we understand about other planets. There are lots of ways that we interact across disciplines.

One of the things that NISAR is going to tell us about is what’s going on underneath the crust of the surface because we’ll be able to see these very small motions that you and I don’t experience daily, right? We can’t sense these. But NISAR will, and it will allow us to advance our models about how the interior of planets work. And those kinds of models are the same models we use when we try to understand how a planet like Mars works.

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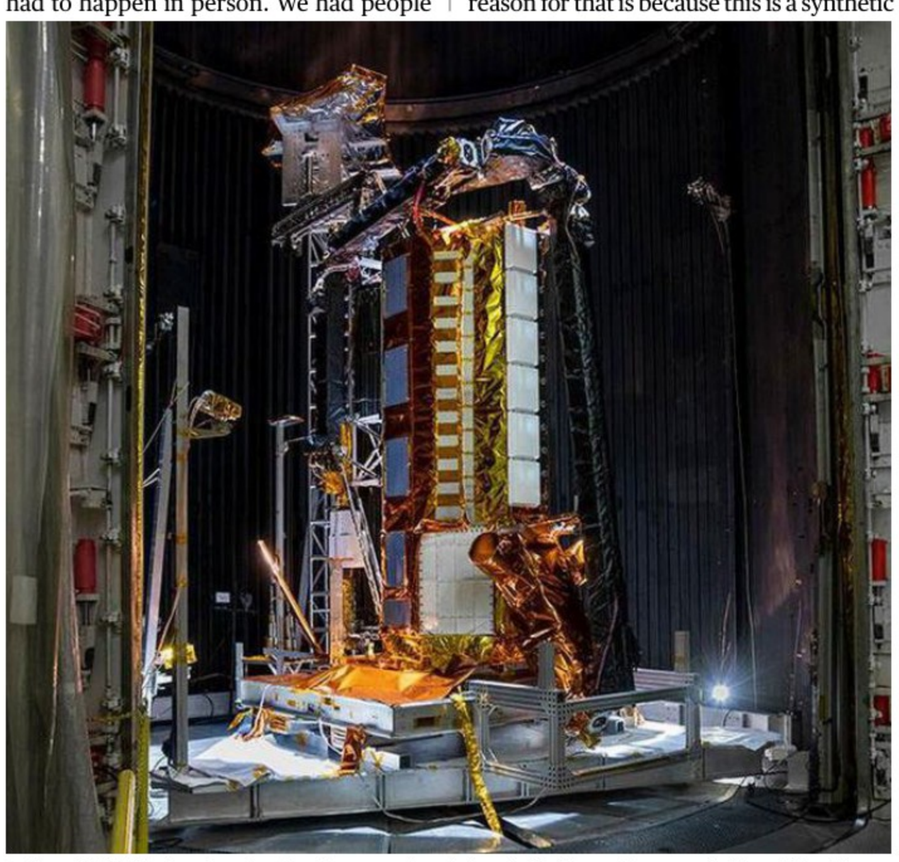
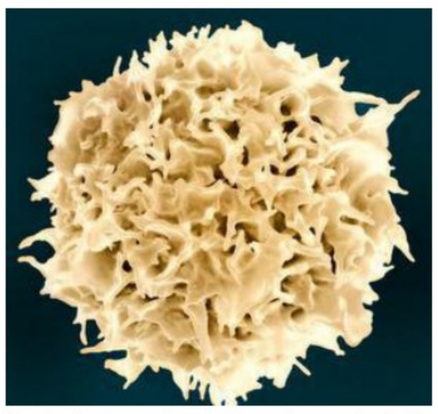


A view of NISAR before the chamber door was closed ahead of its thermal vacuum testing at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California, January 4, 2022. NASA



A colourised scanning electron micrograph of a T cell. NIAID

Scientists use AI-designed proteins to generate immune cells

Rahul Karmakar

A team of Harvard scientists has used artificial intelligence (AI), in the form of AI-designed proteins, to generate large numbers of immune cells and enhance immunity against diseases ranging from cancer to viral infections, a new research paper published in *Cell* said.

The scientists engineered a synthetic activator of a key cellular pathway called Notch signalling, which plays a crucial role in cellular differentiation and is essential for transforming human immune progenitors into T cells. Notch signalling is a cell-to-cell communication system vital for various developmental processes and tissue homeostasis in multicellular organisms. Homeostasis is the body’s way of keeping everything balanced and stable, despite what is happening around it.

“In response to viral infections or cancer, the body requires a higher production of T cells to mount an effective immune defence. However, this process depends on the activation of the Notch signalling pathway, for which no effective molecular activators have been available,” Rubul Mout from Assam, the principal scientist of the study, said.

Associated with the Harvard Stem Cell Institute and the Stem Cell & Regenerative Biology Program at Boston Children’s Hospital, he is one of 24 scientists involved in the collaborative effort. They include George Daley, the Dean of Harvard Medical School, and Nobel laureate David Baker.

The body needs more T cells to deal with viral infections or cancer. This process depends on activation of Notch signalling pathways, for which no molecular activators have been available

Improved method

According to the study, an earlier method of activating Notch signalling in laboratory settings by immobilising Notch ligands on tissue culture dishes is not applicable for therapeutic use in humans. The quest for a viable, soluble activator of Notch signalling that could work in vivo (inside a living body) made the team develop a library of custom-designed soluble Notch agonists and systematically test their ability to activate the Notch pathway and support T cell development and function.

AI-driven protein design technologies, an innovation that contributed to Dr. Baker receiving the 2024 Nobel Prize in Chemistry along with Demis Hassabis and John Jumper, were used to address the challenge.

Using the agonists, the researchers demonstrated the large-scale generation of T cells in a laboratory bioreactor, an important advancement given the growing demand for T cell production in hospitals worldwide for Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T cell-based cancer immunotherapies.

Furthermore, when the agonists were injected into mice during vaccination, the animals displayed significantly improved T cell responses, indicating an enhanced immune response. The treatment resulted in increased production of memory T cells, which are crucial for the long-term impact of vaccines.“Being able to activate Notch signalling opens up tremendous opportunities in immunotherapy, vaccine development, and immune cell regeneration,” Dr. Mout said.

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For feedback and suggestions for ‘Science’, please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject ‘Daily page’

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Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Indians as a share of total tourist footfall in Sri Lanka in July 2025

18.5 In per cent. Sri Lanka received a total of 2,00,244 tourists in July 2025, with Indian travellers accounting for the largest share, local media reported on Sunday. This marks an increase of 6.6% in total tourists arrivals compared to figures from the same period last year. PTI

Number of persons executed by Saudi Arabia in 2025

230 Saudi Arabia has executed eight people in a single day, state media said, amid a surge in the use of the death penalty in the Gulf monarchy particularly over drug-related convictions. Most of those executions —154 people — were on drug-related charges. AFP

Number of people killed by Israeli forces when seeking food

23 Desperation has gripped the Palestinian territory of more than 2 million, which experts have warned is at risk of famine because of Israel's blockade. Three Palestinian eyewitnesses, seeking food in Teina and Morag, said the shootings occurred on the route to the distribution points. AP

Cyber criminals arrested from January to July in Telangana

228 The Telangana Cyber Security Bureau said it had arrested 228 individuals — including 27 women — in connection with various cybercrime offences reported across the country between January 1 and July 31, 2025. The crackdown targeted a range of offences. PTI

Number of villages affected by floods in Uttar Pradesh

402 Floods in Uttar Pradesh have affected 402 villages in 37 tehsils, impacting 84,392 people, a statement said. Of this, 47,906 people have received assistance, as per Relief Commissioner Bhanu Chandra Goswami. PTI

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Why were the Malegaon blast accused freed?

What did a Special National Investigation Agency Court rule with respect to the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case? What were the casualties of the blasts? Why were confessional statements recorded under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act rendered inadmissible?

EXPLAINER

Aaratrika Bhaumik

The story so far:

On July 31, a Special National Investigation Agency (NIA) Court acquitted all seven accused in the 2008 Malegaon bomb blast case, including Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader and former MP Pragya Singh Thakur and serving Army Lieutenant Colonel Prasad Purohit. Special Judge A.K. Lahoti observed that although the occurrence of the bomb blast was indisputable, the prosecution had failed to produce credible and admissible evidence establishing the accused's involvement in the crime.

What was the Malegaon blast case?

On September 29, 2008, during the holy month of Ramzan, a powerful bomb blast ripped through Malegaon, a communally sensitive town in Maharashtra. Around 9:35 p.m., an explosive device concealed in an LML Freedom motorcycle detonated near the Shakeel Goods Transport Company. The explosion killed six people, injured 95 others, and caused significant damage to surrounding property. An FIR was promptly registered and the investigation was initially undertaken by the Nashik Rural Police and Mumbai's Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS). In 2011, the case was transferred to the NIA. Of the 14 individuals arrested in connection with the blast, charges against seven were eventually dropped. The remaining seven, Pragya Singh Thakur, Colonel Prasad Shrikant Purohit, Ramesh Upadhyay, Sameer Kulkarni, Ajay Rahirkar, Sudhakar Dwivedi, and Sudhakar Chaturvedi, were put on trial. They were prosecuted under various provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860, along with charges under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA), 1967, and the Explosive Substances Act, 1908.

According to the ATS, conspiracy meetings had taken place across various locations allegedly under Ms. Thakur's leadership. However, several witnesses, including serving Army officers, later retracted their statements in court, alleging that their earlier testimonies had been coerced. Many of the accused also claimed that their confessions were extracted under torture. The case also attracted widespread attention following the resignation of NIA special public prosecutor Rohini Salian, who alleged that she had been instructed to "go soft" on the accused and that the agency was deliberately weakening the case against the so-called "Hindu terror" network.

Procedural anomalies: Sameer Kulkarni leaving the sessions court in Mumbai, on July 31. PTI

Why were the accused acquitted?

The court held that Ms. Thakur was not in "conscious possession" of the LML Freedom motorcycle in which the explosive device was allegedly planted. The Judge further observed that there was neither eyewitness testimony nor circumstantial evidence to suggest that Ms. Thakur had handed over the motorcycle to the co-accused or was involved in assembling the explosive device. Instead, he noted that the explosive could have been hung, placed, or kept near the motorcycle, rather than fitted inside it. Judge Lahoti observed that the forensic expert who examined the motorcycle, on which the explosive device was allegedly planted, had admitted that it was merely his "guesswork" that led him to conclude the bomb was placed in the vehicle's boot. No scientific test had been conducted to verify the placement of the explosive. Accordingly, the Judge held that in the absence of any primary forensic analysis, the expert's testimony failed to inspire confidence. The ATS further alleged that the explosive used in the blast was RDX, claiming it had been procured by Colonel Purohit during his posting in Jammu & Kashmir. However, the court found no evidence establishing the source of the explosive or how it was procured or transported.

However, Judge Lahoti rejected Mr. Purohit's claim that his association with fringe organisations like Abhinav Bharat was part of his official duties as an intelligence officer. He noted that documentary evidence clearly established Mr. Purohit's role as a trustee of the Abhinav Bharat Trust. However, there was no material on record to suggest that his superiors had authorised him to join the trust or to collect and utilise its funds.

Moreover, the ATS, which initially investigated the blast, based its case primarily on the accused having participated in conspiracy meetings related to execution of the attack. Its key evidence comprised confessional statements recorded under the Maharashtra Control of Organised Crime Act (MCOCA), 1999. However, these confessions were rendered inadmissible after MCOCA was dropped from the case in 2016, when the NIA took over the investigation and flagged procedural lapses. The court concurred, noting that the sanction to invoke MCOCA had been granted without "application of judicial mind." Judge Lahoti noted that Additional Chief Secretary of the Home Department, Mumbai, Chitkala Zutshi, had failed to consult the investigating officer before granting sanction under the UAPA. As a result, the statutory presumptions under the Act, such as the reverse burden of proof, could not be invoked against the accused, the court held.

What happens next?

Advocate Shahid Nadeem, representing Nisar Ahmed Haji Sayyed Bilal, who lost his son in the blast, told the media that the case reflected "significant failures" on the part of the NIA. He added that the victims' families intend to explore legal remedies by filing an independent appeal in the Bombay High Court. Meanwhile, political pressure is mounting on the Maharashtra government to file its own appeal, as it did following the acquittals in the 2006 Mumbai train blasts case.

THE GIST

- On September 29, 2008, during the holy month of Ramzan, a powerful bomb blast ripped through Malegaon, a communally sensitive town in Maharashtra. The explosion killed six people, and injured 95 others.
- The court held that Ms. Thakur was not in "conscious possession" of the LML Freedom motorcycle in which the explosive device was allegedly planted.
- Advocate Shahid Nadeem, representing Nisar Ahmed Haji Sayyed Bilal, who lost his son in the blast, told the media that the case reflected "significant failures" on the part of the NIA.

How will railway to Sairang help in regional connectivity?

How will it boost the Act East policy? What is the status of projects to link the northeast with Southeast Asia?

Rahul Karmakar

The story so far:

The Indian Railways recently commissioned the new 51.38 km track to Sairang, 18 km short of Mizoram's capital Aizawl. It raises hopes for India's ambitious Act East Policy which envisages rail and road links with Southeast Asia.

When did the Mizoram project start?

Mizoram had 1.5 km of metre gauge railway track connecting Bairabi in the State's Kolasib district to Assam's Silchar before the gauge conversion project, sanctioned in 2000, was undertaken. The extension of this project to Sairang, which entailed laying a 51.38 km track, began in 2008-09, but the progress was slow due to inclement weather, a difficult and landslide-prone terrain, manpower shortage, and issues with transporting construction materials. The project was part of the Indian Railways' plan in the early 2010s to connect all the northeastern State capitals to the country's rail network, although the Sairang railway station is 18 km short of Mizoram's capital, Aizawl. The Bairabi-Sairang section, which received safety clearance in June 2025 and awaits formal inauguration, has 48 tunnels with a total length of 12.85 km and 142 bridges. The project cost more than ₹5,020 crore and the lives of 18 workers when the bridge with the tallest pier collapsed during construction in August 2023.

What is its significance?

Landlocked Mizoram's fastest access to the rest of the country is through air travel. The Aizawl-Silchar highway, also via Sairang, is the second-fastest option that consumes at least five hours. Trains, including a proposed Rajdhani Express, from the Sairang railhead will slash this travel time to 1.5 hours and the cost of transportation considerably. Railway officials say the biggest gain for the State will be in tourism, trade, and transportation of goods, reducing the dependence on trucks to a large extent. They said the Sairang railhead is strategic vis-a-vis the Act East Policy, envisaging rail and road connectivity to improve trade with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and other East Asian countries, deepen diplomatic engagements, and build stronger security cooperation. Sairang is also expected to be vital for transhipment of goods from the India-funded Sittwe Port in Myanmar.

What is the Act East Policy?

The Act East Policy, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, was a more ambitious version of the Look East Policy initiated during the Congress government in 1991 with the key objective of transforming the northeastern region into India's gateway to the ASEAN bloc. Official data show that the Centre increased the budgetary allocations for the region by 300% from ₹36,108 crore during the 2014-15 fiscal to more than ₹1,00,000 crore during 2024-25. More than 10,000 km of highways and 800 km of railway tracks were built, eight new airports established, and several inland waterway projects undertaken during this period. Vital to linking Southeast Asia by rail are the 82.5 km Dimapur-Zubza (near Kohima) project in Nagaland, the Imphal-Moreh plan in Manipur, and the Asian Highway 1 from Assam to Moreh via Kohima and Imphal. While the Nagaland project is on track, the ethnic conflict in Manipur has affected the proposed railway line between Imphal and Moreh.

The connectivity projects to link the northeast with Southeast Asia have not progressed beyond India's borders due to the unrest in India's neighbourhood. The Act East Policy ran into the civil war in Myanmar following a military coup in February 2021, followed by the fall of the Sheikh Hasina government in Bangladesh in August 2024. The Agartala-Akhaura railway project, which would have provided Tripura faster access to Kolkata through Bangladesh and connectivity to the Chittagong Port, has been stalled. The biggest setback has been the delay of the ₹2,904 crore Kaladan Multi-Modal Transit Transport Project in Myanmar, which would have reduced the distance between Mizoram and Kolkata by 1,000 km.

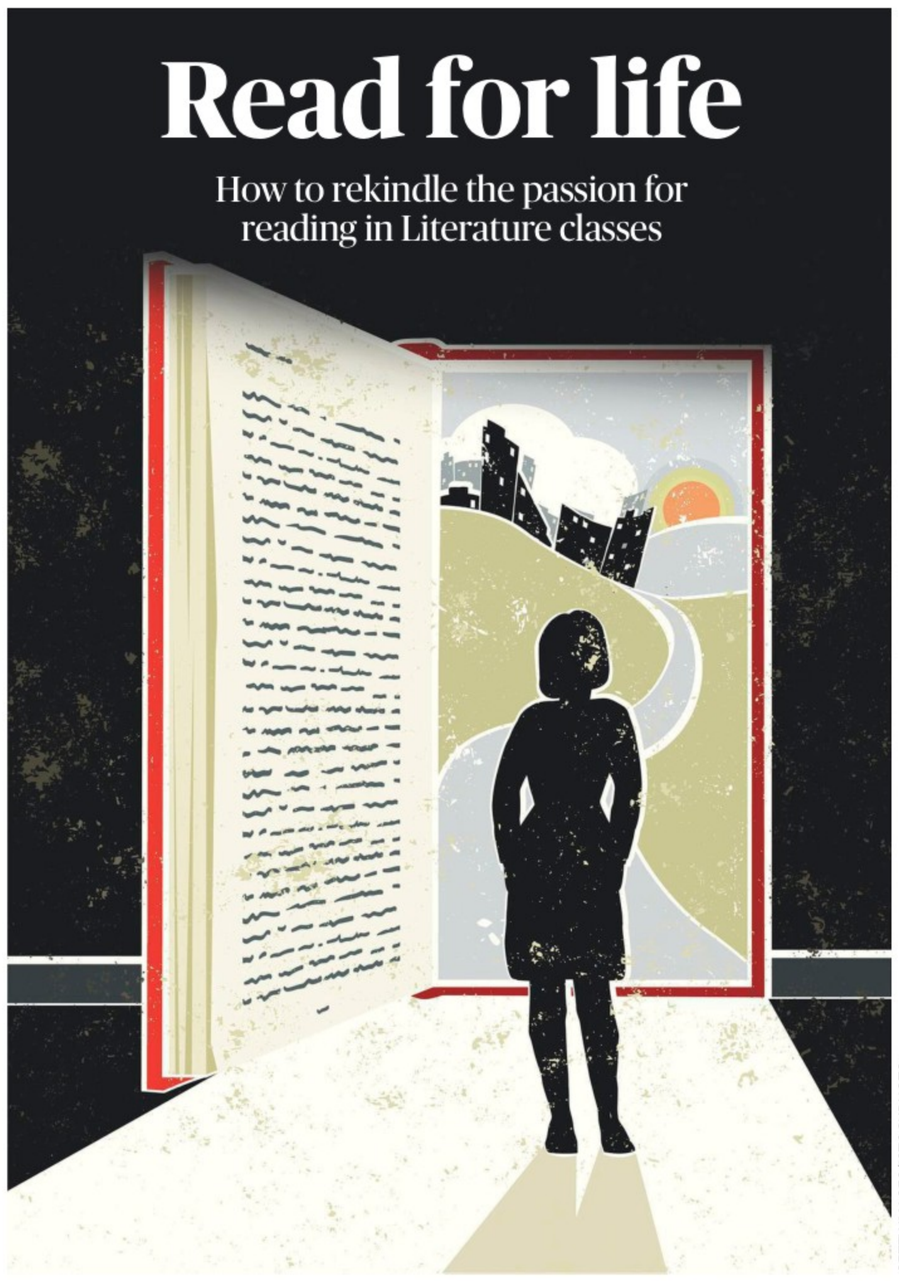
THE GIST

- The project was part of the Indian Railways' plan in the early 2010s to connect all the northeastern State capitals to the country's rail network, although the Sairang railway station is 18 km short of Mizoram's capital, Aizawl.
- The Act East Policy, announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2014, had the key objective of transforming the northeastern region into India's gateway to the ASEAN bloc.
- The connectivity projects to link the northeast with Southeast Asia have not progressed beyond India's borders due to the unrest in India's neighbourhood.

EDUCATIONPLUS

Read for life

How to rekindle the passion for reading in Literature classes



GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

H. Kalpana Rao

When I began teaching literature, I assumed my students would love the texts I held dear. However, my first term quickly disproved me of that notion. I discovered that many students believed reading the actual texts was unnecessary – as long as they could access story outlines and prepare a few essay answers using notes from senior students or guidebooks. This realisation was disheartening.

I soon learned that I was not alone in this concern. Many colleagues had similar experiences. Over time, I began to reflect: Was the issue rooted in students' inability to read, or was it a general lack of interest? Gradually, I understood that the problem was not a lack of reading skills but rather an inertia toward reading itself. This led me to question how literature is taught, and more importantly, how we might rekindle genuine interest among students.

Categorisation

An often-overlooked factor in this discussion is the content and approach used in the classroom. English departments in colleges and universities typically organise their syllabi into categories like Romantic poetry, 19th century fiction, or Shakespeare and offer specialised courses such as Literary Criticism that cover critics from Dryden to Eliot and theorists like I. A. Richards and Derrida. However, these are often treated as discrete, isolated units rather than interconnected frameworks to understand literature as a totality.

Yet literature is a dynamic tapestry of voices, histories, and ideas. When students complete a literature course, they are rarely concerned with how many children Mrs. Bennet had in *Pride and Prejudice* or how William Empson conceptualised ambiguity. These details may seem trivial and, as a result, students may disengage from the larger experience of reading and thinking about literature. The solution lies in re-imagining the way we teach literature: moving from rote learning to critical engagement.

One effective strategy is to encourage students to explore meaning through inquiry. For instance, instead of summarising the plot of *Wuthering Heights*, invite students to investigate the idea of "home" in the novel. When studying Bama, ask students to reflect on how personal struggle shape her memoir. How is valour part of a poem such as Tennyson's *Ulysses* or *Tithonus*? These prompt deeper analysis and personal engagement.

Equally essential is grounding literature in its geographical, historical, and social contexts. Students should research the era in which a work was written, examine the prevailing social conditions, and discuss its relevance in today's world. Literature should not be studied in isolation; it must be connected to the lived reality.

Literary theory

Incorporating literary theory into this process is vital. Rather than treating theory as a separate academic requirement, we must integrate it into the act of reading itself. Encourage students to ask how meaning is produced, how interpretations evolve, and how themes are constructed and deconstructed. This ensures that theory becomes a tool for engagement, not just abstraction.

Students should also be encouraged to write reflectively about their personal responses to texts. Whether analysing a poem or a novel, articulating their thoughts fosters a deeper, more meaningful connection with literature. Without this reflective practice, literature can appear as nothing more than a disconnected compilation of texts.

Moreover, cultural, and philosophical dimensions should be woven into literary studies. Students must be shown how texts help us understand humanity and that this is the broader quest they carry into the world. In our digital age, we can enhance engagement by inviting students to create short films or perform plays based on the texts they study. They can use AI tools to visualise the setting of a play, trace intertextual connections, or retell classic stories in contemporary contexts.

Finally, creating space for classroom debates and discussions is essential, as it fosters independent thinking and helps students see literature as a living dialogue, not a closed book. By adopting these strategies, we can transform the teaching of literature into a dynamic, engaging experience that encourages students to read not just for exams, but for life.

The writer is a former Professor of English, Pondicherry University.

SCHOLARSHIPS

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Application: Online
Deadline: March 31, 2026
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Forge connections

Uncertain about your career options? Low on self-confidence? This column may help

OFF THE EDGE
Nandini Raman

I am 22 and have a B.Tech. in Computer Science. I want to pursue MBA in Finance as I prefer it over coding. However, I am unable to score well in the CAT. Should I opt for an average college or take the CAT again? Onkar

Dear Onkar,

Evaluate retaking the CAT (and other exams) by honestly introspecting why you have not done well. Was it a lack of consistent preparation, difficulty with specific sections, test anxiety, or a combination of problems? Identifying the root cause is crucial to improve.

Take the exam again if you are willing to dedicate the necessary time and effort for another year of rigorous preparation. Focus and strengthen the sections in which you struggle. Take regular mock tests under timed conditions to simulate the actual exam environment. Analyse your mock test results thoroughly to identify areas for improvement and consider joining a coaching class or a study group for structured learning and peer support.

Explore other exams such as XAT, SNAP, NMAT, and IIFT. They have different formats and might suit your strengths better. Research the top colleges that accept these scores.

What is your definition of an "average college"? The factors to consider when choosing colleges are the location, the curriculum, the faculty experience, internship opportunities, placement statistics, the companies that recruit, the roles offered, and the alumni network.

If you are hesitant about another year of intense preparation or if your assessment suggests only a marginal improvement in your CAT score, then go ahead and join the "average" MBA college.

I got First Class with Distinction in M.Voc in Technology and Management Consulting and a first-class in my B.Voc as well. I have one year's experience in Operations and want to continue in supply chain. I am considering an MBA in Operations or an M.Sc. in Supply Chain Management. Which would be more suitable? Enchante

Dear Enchante,

An MBA in Operations will cover core business functions such as finance, marketing, strategy, and human resources, alongside topics like production, process optimisation, quality management, and supply chain elements. The focus is on leadership and strategic decision-making within the operations function.

An M.Sc. in Supply Chain Management is a more specialised and technical. It delves into the intricacies of the entire supply chain, including procurement, logistics, warehousing, distribution, demand forecasting, and supply chain analytics. The focus is on optimising the flow of goods and information across the entire network.

While an M.Sc. in Supply Chain Management can lead to excellent careers in logistics, procurement, and supply chain analysis, an MBA offers a broader path into senior management roles across different functions. Given your strong interest in supply chain and disinterest in research, an MBA in Operations with a strong focus on or specialisation in Supply Chain Management would probably be more suitable for you.

I have completed B.Sc. and M.Sc. Botany and am in the second year of Ph.D. Forestry. I don't want to teach, and interest in research is also fading. What are my options? Kareena

Dear Kareena,

Is it possible for you to leverage your Botany expertise in different sectors such as environmental consulting, conservation and natural resource management, or horticulture?

You could also use your scientific background to write articles, create content, or work with media outlets, museums or botanical gardens to explain complex concepts and create educational programmes.

Policy and advocacy related to plant conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development or Intellectual Property with a further specialisation (potentially a law degree or certification) could help you work as a patent agent specialising in plant-related inventions and biotechnology.

Data analysis and GIS, project management, business and entrepreneurship (related to Botany) in sustainable agriculture or natural product development is another option.

I have done B.A. and M.A. History, M.Sc. Environmental Archaeology, and am currently pursuing an Integrated Ph.D., which will give me an M.Tech. (Research) and a Ph.D. in Earth Sciences. I am exploring career options outside academia. What are the career paths that might align with my background and skills? How can I build industry connections? Ritvik

Dear Ritvik,

Sustainability Consulting is a strong fit for your background. Your understanding of historical human-environment interactions combined with your Earth Sciences knowledge can help businesses and organisations develop and implement sustainable practices. You could advise on ESG strategies, climate risk assessment and adaptation, resource management and circular economy, sustainable supply chain management, and environmental impact assessment (EIA).

Some specific skills you could further leverage are as a data analyst with focus on environment and sustainability, geospatial analyst or GIS specialist, Science Communicator or project manager for sustainability initiatives.

To build industry connections, attend industry-specific conferences, seminars, and workshops organised by local chapters of environmental and sustainability professional organisations. LinkedIn can also help identify and connect with professionals working in sustainability consulting firms and relevant industries. Reach out to people whose career paths you find interesting and request for brief interviews on their work, company, and how they got there.

Explore opportunities and alumni networks of your institutions. Participate in online forums and communities related to sustainability and environmental consulting. Also consider pursuing short-term internships or pro-bono projects with sustainability consulting firms or relevant companies to gain practical experience.

Disclaimer: This column is merely a guiding voice and provides advice and suggestions on education and careers.

The writer is a practising counsellor and a trainer. Send your questions to eduplus.thehindu@gmail.com with the subject line Off the Edge

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CACHE

New rules: Bitcoin, Ethereum and the stablecoin USDT are promoted at a cryptocurrency store in Hong Kong on July 29. AFP

Why is Hong Kong regulating and licensing stablecoins?

Stablecoins are a class of cryptocurrencies, with their values linked to assets. Hong Kong is preparing the implementation of a regulatory regime for those issuing stablecoins, prompting enthusiasm in the fintech sector while authorities push for a more cautious approach

Sahana Venugopal

The story so far:

Hong Kong is taking a decisive step forward in regulating certain types of cryptocurrencies, as it prepares to enforce the Stablecoins Ordinance from August 1. The new regulations come amidst an explosion of interest in stablecoins and their promising applications in both personal finance and international business. While crypto users who support official regulation are excited, the authorities have advised caution.

What is the new stablecoin licensing system in Hong Kong?

The Hong Kong Monetary Authority announced that the Stablecoins Ordinance will come into effect from August 1 this year. This means it will be illegal for people to "offer any unlicensed fiat-referenced stablecoin (FRS) to a retail investor, or actively market the issue of unlicensed FRS to the public of Hong Kong," according to Eddie Yue, Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Monetary Authority (HKMA).

Furthermore, companies that want to legally issue stablecoins to users in Hong Kong will have to obtain a licence from the Monetary Authority as well as meet set requirements when it comes to managing reserve assets and redemption, asset stabilisation, and processing user requests. In addition to this, they will have to comply with the applicable regulations that prevent money laundering and terrorist financing, thus making sure that their assets are properly disclosed and audited.

The HKMA warned that the regulations are not a red carpet for interested parties to begin issuing stablecoins, and that in the beginning it would "at most grant a handful of stablecoin issuer licences. In other words, a large number of applicants will be disappointed," per Mr. Yue in an official statement.

What are stablecoins?

Stablecoins are a class of cryptocurrencies, with their values linked to assets. Unlike better known cryptocurrency coins such as Bitcoin (BTC) and Ether (ETH) or even tokens such as Shiba Inu (SHIB), whose values can wildly rise and fall due to investor sentiments and other factors, stablecoins are designed to maintain relatively steady prices. Hence, their name.

This so-called stability is achieved through the process of "pegging" the stablecoin to an asset such as fiat currency (like U.S. Dollars, EU Euros, Hong Kong Dollars, etc.), a commodity (like gold), other cryptocurrencies (such as Bitcoin), by regulating their value via computer algorithms, or by mixing multiple strategies. While the price of Bitcoin might rise or fall in the coming years, a USD-pegged stablecoin should ideally remain around $1.

Stablecoins are different from CBDCs, or Central Bank Digital Currencies, which are digital currencies officially issued and controlled by a government's central bank. Meanwhile, stablecoins can be privately issued and can also be pegged to foreign currencies.

Why do stablecoins require regulation?

Stablecoins play an important role both within and outside the crypto ecosystem, even if they might not balloon in price like Bitcoin. Crypto investors often use stablecoins to facilitate easy trading on crypto exchanges. Others around the world have used stablecoins to maintain the value of their savings when their native currencies are depreciating, or to save money on cross-border transactions. Argentina, Turkey, and even Taliban-occupied Afghanistan are some places where stablecoins are not just for trading, but a way to make daily life possible.

The numbers tell a compelling story as well. Tether (USDT), the fourth largest cryptocurrency by market capitalisation and the largest stablecoin, per CoinMarketCap, has a circulating supply of 163.75 billion USDT. Meanwhile, more than $250 billion worth of stablecoins are estimated to be in circulation worldwide.

Naturally, more governments are concerned about whether the highly engineered use of stablecoins could one day affect the value of the original fiat currencies or commodities backing them up. Furthermore, what is the guarantee that every stablecoin pegged to the dollar, euro, pound, or peso is actually backed up by its issuer? Currently, it is largely up to stablecoin users to audit their issuers' reserves and make sure that their stablecoins are adequately backed. When a stablecoin issuer suddenly adds millions of dollars in assets, it naturally raises questions about where the money to back this is coming from, or whether it really exists. This is where regulation comes in.

Do stablecoins exhibit volatility despite being pegged to currencies?

Despite their name and their backing, stablecoins can also exhibit volatility. In response to both technical factors and world events, stablecoins sometimes come unpegged and their prices may rise or fall beyond the usual range, with sudden drops triggering panic amongst investors. For example, USDT, which is pegged to the U.S. Dollar, has in the past fallen to prices as low as around $0.92.

Stablecoins have also collapsed entirely. In May 2022, Terra's cryptocurrency LUNA and its linked algorithmic stablecoin UST both lost most of their value in a matter of hours. Panicking investors who no longer trusted these assets quickly sold them off to minimise losses, and the prices fell close to zero. Billions of dollars were wiped from the crypto sector and the ensuing liquidity crunch triggered asset freezes across global crypto exchanges and fintech platforms.

Have other countries started to regulate stablecoins?

U.S. President Donald Trump in July signed the GENIUS Act that is designed to regulate stablecoins and protect the U.S. dollar, much to the joy of his pro-crypto supporters.

As per the White House, the GENIUS Act requires 100% reserve backing with liquid assets like U.S. dollars or short-term Treasuries for stablecoins. Those issuing this asset will also have to make monthly, public disclosures of the composition of their reserves, apart from complying with marketing rules.

Other countries that have started to regulate stablecoins include Japan and Singapore, per *AFP*, while multiple other jurisdictions have more generic regulations that cover stablecoins along with other cryptocurrencies.

Though the Chinese government heavily restricts crypto-related activities in its jurisdiction, some of the country's tech giants hope that Hong Kong's upcoming regulatory regime will provide an outlet for their own stablecoin ventures.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

A quiz on the multi-talented Kishore Kumar who would have been 96 today

V.V. Ramanan

QUESTION 1
What is the significance of the film *Muqaddar* as regards the filmography of Kishore Kumar?

QUESTION 2
Which of his hit songs was used in *The Simpsons'* episode "Kiss Kiss, Bang Bangalore"?

QUESTION 3
Which poem that Kishore penned during his days at Indore Christian College did he make into a song in the film that was also his debut as a music director?

QUESTION 4
What was the premise of the flick *Hum Do Daaku* in which he and his brother Anoop acted along with Madhubala's sisters Ganga and Leena?

QUESTION 5
For crooning which evergreen number did Kishore win the first of the record eight Filmfare Awards?

QUESTION 6
Kishore Kumar was a much-married man. Apart from Madhubala, his second wife, who were his other three spouses?

QUESTION 7
Which song, composed by Laxmikant-Pyarelal, had Kishore singing alongside his legendary contemporaries Mohd. Rafi, Mukesh, and Lata Mangeshkar?

QUESTION 8
According to IMDB, apart from Rajesh Khanna (245), to which actor did Kishore lend his voice for more than 200 songs (202 to be precise)?

Visual question:
The visual shows one of the co-authors of *Kishore Kumar: The Ultimate Biography* receiving the National award for Best Book on Cinema in 2024. Name the authors. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

Questions and Answers to the August 1 edition of the daily quiz: 1. Spider-Man first appeared in this comic book issue. **Ans: Amazing Fantasy #15 in August 1962**
2. The famous phrase "With great power comes great responsibility" first appears in relation to Spider-Man here. **Ans: The phrase first appeared in Amazing Fantasy #15 (1962), Spider-Man's debut comic written by Stan Lee. It was not spoken by any character but appeared as a narrative caption in the comic book's last panel**
3. This issue holds the record for the highest-price sale of a Spider-Man comic. **Ans: A near-mint copy of Amazing Fantasy #15 (Spider-Man's first appearance) sold in 2021 for a staggering $3.6 million**
4. This philosophy influenced Spider-Man co-creator Steve Ditko's work. **Ans: Ayn Rand's Objectivism influenced Steve Ditko's work**
5. The reason why did Stan Lee added a hyphen to Spider-Man's name. **Ans: Stan Lee added a hyphen to Spider-Man's name to distinguish him from Superman**
Visual: Identify the structures reflected in Spider-Man's eyes**. Ans: The original World Trade Center Twin Towers, New York**
Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| Tamal Biswas| Tito Shiladitya| Suchit Narottam| Vikram Koppikar

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

I was tired so I had a catnap in the car

He trashed her ideas in front of the entire committee. It was not a pretty sight

S. Upendran

"There you are! Where were you? I've been looking all over for you."

"Ended up with a bad headache after this morning's presentations. They were awful."

"I know! One of the experts had a lot of things to say about them."

"No need to be diplomatic. The expert took great delight in trashing the presentations."

"Do you mean to say that he thought the presentations were nothing more than garbage?"

"The word trash has several different meanings. One of them, of course, is garbage. But in informal contexts, 'trash' can also be used to mean to criticise someone or something very harshly."

"I see. After the match, the coach trashed Rahul in front of everyone for having dropped three catches."

"Even ideas can be trashed. Jyothi's proposal was trashed by all members of the committee."

"But tell me, where did you go after the presentations? I didn't see you at lunch!"

"I needed to be away from everyone. Went to my room for a catnap."

"Catnap? Does it mean a short nap?"

"Very good! The cat that we're thinking of is the house cat. Not lions or..."

"Can't be the king of the jungle. He sleeps nearly 16 hours a day!"

"Really? I didn't know that! House cats, on the other hand, take several short naps throughout the day. When you take a catnap, you sleep for a short while. Anywhere between 10 and 20 minutes."

"So, it's not deep sleep?"

"It's not, but you wake up feeling refreshed. Catnaps are usually taken during the daytime, and they can be taken anywhere – in the chair, on the sofa, while sitting in a car..."

"I think I understand. I read somewhere that Napoleon had the ability to take a catnap while riding a horse."

"Really? That's hard to believe! I usually take a catnap when my mother is on the phone with her friend. Catnap can also be used as a verb. My father could catnap whenever he wanted to."

"Lucky man! Tell me, what's the difference between catnap and beauty sleep? Sujatha always talks about needing her beauty sleep."

"In the case of Sujatha and me, no amount of sleep will help."

"That's a mean thing to say! Anyway, what is beauty sleep?"

"Unlike a catnap, your beauty sleep is something that you have in the night. It's not something that you have in the day time. You go to bed before midnight."

"I see. And how long does one sleep?"

"It depends on the individual. Dictionaries define beauty sleep as something you need 'in order to feel and look healthy and attractive'. So, the duration may vary. "

upendrankye@gmail.com

Word of the day

Hirsute:
having or covered with hair

Synonym: hairy

Usage: *His body was broad, hirsute, and covered with scars.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/hirsutepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /həːˈsjuːt/, /həːˈsuːt/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

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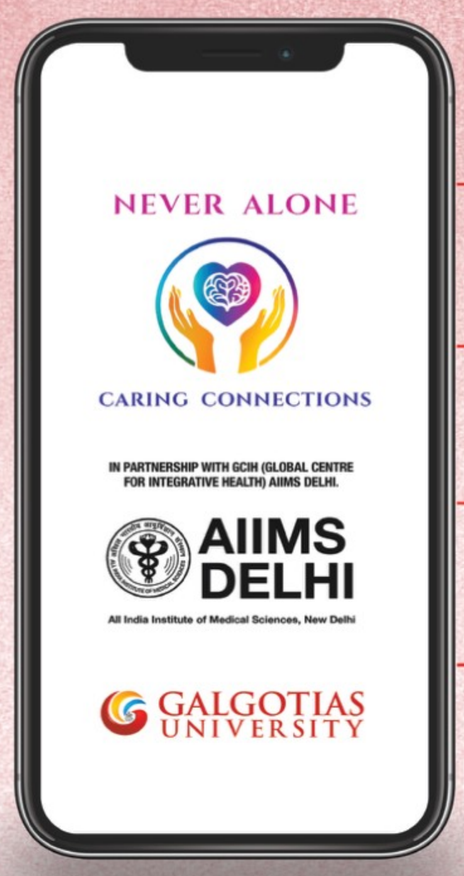
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From Page One

'Crime by Prajwal could be construed as offence against society'

Regarding the dates of the two sexual assaults, the court concludes that the victim being a rustic villager, also an illiterate, though may not have told the exact dates, was consistent with the timeline of events, as during COVID-19 lockdown and four years before she lodged the complaint.

The court also quotes the statement of the victim's sister who was with her when she was abused at Basavanagudi, though the victim did not confide in her then.

The sister told the court that on the third day of their visit to Basavanagudi, where the victim was raped, her sister was dull and upon enquiry, she was silently uttering that they cannot do anything. The court said this "would become relevant because of the fact of the behaviour of the victim immediately after the incident". Apart from the victim's statement, the judgment further relies on two scientific evidences. "The prosecution has proved beyond reasonable doubt about the commission of the incident by placing corroborative evidence of the scientific experts in the form of DNA Examination Report wherein the stains found on the sari and other clothes of the victim matched with the DNA profiling of accused Prajwal Revanna. The prosecution has also proved the digital records in the form of videos which were circulated were not edited/morphed and also the male and female voice found in the videos matched with the sample voice of accused Prajwal Revanna and the victim," the judgment said.

Modi to inaugurate Yellow Line on Aug 10

Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) began civil works for the Yellow Line in 2017, three years after receiving approval from the Central government. Although the original deadline was set for early 2023, civil works were only completed in 2024. The delay was primarily owing to the late arrival of train sets.

Initially, the plan was to open seven stations on the Yellow line, with trains running every 15 minutes. However, BMRCL is now planning to make all 16 stations operational from the start, using three driverless trains running at 25-minute intervals.

Titagarh Rail Systems Limited (TRSL), the company supplying trains for the Yellow Line to BMRCL, has already delivered three train sets ready to be deployed. A fourth train set has been dispatched and is expected to arrive soon. The inauguration announcement came two days after BMRCL received safety clearance for the Yellow Line from the Commissioner of Metro Railway Safety (CMRS). Once the fourth train set arrives, it will undergo safety and operational checks before being inducted into service. It may take about a month for the fourth train to begin operations. At full capacity, the Yellow Line will operate 15 trains, significantly reducing waiting times, although this level of service is expected only by next year.

In 2019, BMRCL awarded the train supply contract to a Chinese company. However, the Indian government later banned Chinese firms from participating in Indian government tenders and contracts fololwing the Galwan stand off in 2020. Eventually, the Chinese firm partnered with TRSL to begin delivering train sets. The first prototype train was sent in early 2024, with testing beginning in November. TRSL is expected to complete delivery of all Yellow Line train sets by next year.

Forensic technique used to prove it's Prajwal in the video is a first in State

The special court has appreciated the probe carried out by SIT for 'their limpid examination in adopting and utilising the modern technology of scientific examination', terming it a 'welcome step'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna

The forensic technique of superimposing the image of the scene of crime and the accused, including that of his genitals, with the videos of the sexual assault to conclude that the person in the two images is the same, was employed to identify former Hassan MP Prajwal Revanna in the video evidence linked to the rape case against him. This technique was used for the first time in Karnataka.

Judge Santosh Gajanan Bhat, of the Special Court of Sessions for criminal cases against former and present MPs and MLAs, in his judgment convicting Prajwal Revanna for rape, appreciated the investigation carried out by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) for "their limpid examination in adopting and utilising the modern technology of scientific examination", terming it a "welcome step".

The SIT was led by B.K. Singh, Additional Director General of Police (ADGP), Criminal Investigation Department (CID). After arrest, Prajwal Revanna was subjected to medical examination where photographs were taken of his body parts, including his genitals, to compare with those parts of the man visible in the video, though his face was not seen. Forensic teams also took photographs of the scenes of crimes - a room in Gannikada farmhouse and a room in Revanna's house in Basavanagudi - to superimpose them with those in the videos. "The SIT has utilised the best available scientific methods and also probably it is first case in the State wherein the SIT had requested the Forensic Science Laboratory to super-impose the images of the environment of the room found in the videos with that of the images which were captured scientifically during investigation and also to examine the image patterns, voice analysis in a scientific manner," the judgement said.

"The superimposed image of the victim at the place of incident, and also the body parts, the fabric that was worn, were all compared. Further, the photograph of the accused concerning a specific identification mark, when superimposed and compared with the image, would indicate that the very same mole and identification mark matched with each other. Further, a comparison has been made concerning vein structures of the genitals of the accused person and in conclusion it has been drawn that the visible features in both images particularly the pattern and placement of the vein, it would strongly suggest that the visible characteristics are consistent across two visuals and both images depicted the same individual," the judgement read.

Assigned prisoner no. 15528

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Prajwal Revanna was shifted to the convicts' section in Parappana Agrahara Central Prison Complex on Saturday after he was sentenced for life in a rape case. He was given the prison inmate's uniform with the number 15528, which he will have to wear henceforth.

Earlier, he was housed in a high-security cell as an undertrial and was allowed to wear a civil dress.

Prajwal Revanna will have to henceforth work for eight hours a day and can choose among working at the bakery, carpentry, gardening, animal husbandry, or crafts.

He will be paid ₹524 per day in the first year, when he will be considered an unskilled labourer. The payment increases over the years when he becomes a skilled labourer, as per prison manual, sources said.

Illegal phone exchange: CCB begins probe

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Cybercrime division of the Central Crime Branch (CCB) on Wednesday launched a probe against an illegal telephone exchange operated by a group of people for the last few days.

Based on a complaint, the CCB has registered a case against the unknown accused under various Sections of IT Act and Telegraph Act.

According to the complaint, the nodal officer of a major private mobile service provider, based on the information from the Telecom Department, verified and found that 42 SIM cards availed from the company had been used for illegal purposes.

The charge

The accused had used a SIM box to transfer international calls into domestic calls to run an illegal telephone exchange and make money, the complaint said. This, according to the complaint, is not only a threat to national security, but causing huge financial losses to the private company.

Promoters of Ozone Urbana diverted project funds: ED

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The recent raids on the promoters of the much-delayed realty project Ozone Urbana Housing Township in Devanahalli taluk on the outskirts of Bengaluru by the Directorate of Enforcement (ED) on August 1, is said to have revealed that the promoters of the project "diverted the money collected from the customers meant for completion of the project to other group entities and individuals not connected to the project".

In a statement issued on Sunday, ED said that during the search operations, various incriminating documents related to diversion and misappropriation of project funds have been found and seized from the various premises. Evidence with respect to double sale of a few flats has also been gathered and seized during the course of investigation, ED said.

ED had raided 10 premises linked to the promoter of the project and its key management personnel in Bengaluru and Mumbai under Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), 2002. The main promoter of this group is Satyamoorthi Vasudevan, ED said. "The investigation revealed that the accused have cheated hundreds of gullible customers by taking money from them for its project by the name Ozone Urbana and failing to deliver promised flats to them.The money was collected from customers by inducing them and promising to pay EMIs to the banks against the loans taken by the home buyers till completion of the project," ED said in its statement.

800 students from Northeast visit ISRO facilities in city

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Students from Northeast States at the ISRO facilities in Bengaluru.
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

A total of 800 students from eight States of the Northeast recently visited the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) facilities in Bengaluru. The visit was a part of the North-east Students' Programme for Awareness, Reach, and Knowledge on Space (NE-SPARKS), an initiative launched by ISRO, North Eastern Council, and State governments of North-eastern region.

According to ISRO, as part of this programme, 800 students in eight batches from eight States of northeast region visited ISRO centres in Bengaluru. "The visits of the second and third batches were successfully conducted on June 26 and 27, and July 24 and 25 respectively," the ISRO said.

The space agency said that on the first day of their visit, students explored the facilities at ISRO Telemetry, Tracking and Command Network, and Indian Deep Space Network. "On the second day, the students visited UR Rao Satellite Centre. The visits concluded with a trip to the Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium," the space agency said.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the NOTICE of General Public, that my clients **DR.ANAND.H.K,** S/o Sri. Krishnamurthy.H.A and **SMT.ANITHA ANAND,** W/o Dr. Anand.H.K, intends to purchase the schedule property from **SRI.N.S.RAGUNATHAN,** S/o Late. N.K.Srinivasan.

This notice is hereby given for the information of General public that, any persons/Banks/Financial institutes having any right, title, share, claim or interest against/in the schedule property may contact me with their documentary/legitimate proof in support of their claim within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of this notice. If no claim is so lodged with me within **7 (Seven) days** from the date of publication, after which my clients shall proceed with the Absolute Sale Deed on the basis that there are no claims whatsoever, as if the same is free from all kinds of claims/encumbrances and no claim shall be entertained later.

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CHANGE OF NAME

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LEGAL NOTICE

Before the Hon'ble High Court for the State of Telangana At Hyderabad
LA.No.2 of 2025 In
C.R.P.No. 1505 of 2025

Between:
D.Saraswathi and 2 others..Petitioners/
AND
1.Seshikumar S/o. Budeppa, Aged about 30 Years.,Occ: JCB Driver, R/o. Masarkal Village,Gabur Police Station,Devadurga Taluq, Raichur District. Karanataka State.
2. Bheemaiah S/o.Hanumanthu, Aged about 35 Years, Occ: JCB Owner, R/o. Talmari Village, Raichur District. Karanataka State. Respondent 1and 2

Whereas the above name Petitioners has filed the above M.VO.P. against The Respondent-1 and 2herein. The Petition **Filed U/Sec 166(I) (C) OF M.V. Act. MVOP in the L.A. No.283 of 2024 on the file of Motor Accidents Claims Tribunal Cum principal District judge at Gadwal, Jogulamba Gadwal District.** And the same was dismissed and the petitioners herein has preferred CRP 1505 of 2025 before the Honourable High Court of Telangana Hyderabad and it was posted on 14-08-2025. After submission of hearing, the Hon'ble High Court Pleased to pass to take out personal notice to you through paper Publication Hence, the respondent I and 2 are directed t take this Notice since the above CRP.No. 1505 OF 2025 is posted on 14-08-2025 for your appearance. **By 10-30 A.M.** otherwise the petition will be heard and determined in your absence.//By the order of the court.

Sd/-
SREELEKHA PUJARI, Advocate.
Flat No. 7-11-149,Sreenivas Colony, Gadwal, Jogulamba,Gadwal-509125.
Cell No. : 8309758581

PERSONAL

LOST & FOUND

DOCUMENT LOST

I, KARANAM SUJATHAMMA, aged about 57 years, W/o Late S.K Venkatesh, residing at No.7, Devanathachar Street, Chamrajapet, Bengaluru - 560018, have lost original Partition Deed Documents No. BSG-1-03293-2004-05, Book-I, stored in C.D.No.BSGD 32 dated: 04/09/2004, registered at Basavanagudi Sub-Registrar's Office Bangalore for immovable property being Vacant Site bearing BBMP No.7/1 (formerly the 'EASTERN PORTION' of Property bearing Municipal No.7) earlier BBMP PID No.46-24-7/1, now assigned with New EPID No.6629054486, situated at DEVANATHACHAR STREET (Devanathachar Road) (Raghavendra Colony) CHAMARAJAPET, Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagarapalike earlier Ward No.46, present Ward No.140, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 40 Feet, North to South: 36 Feet, totally measuring 1440 Square Feet, at the office of the Sub-Registrar, Basavanagudi, Bangalore on 22/07/2025 b/w 11 am to 3.00 pm. I have given police complaint in this regard with Lost Report No. 1728298/2025. If found, Please contact on 9986076023.

TENDERS

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TENDER NOTICE

E-Tenders (https://etenders.kerala.gov.in) are invited for **"THE SUPPLY OF EXTRA NEUTRAL ALCOHOL (ENA) FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01.09.2025 to 31.03.2026" (Tender ID- 2025_TSC_780703_1) & Last Date of Submission-07.08.2025 at 3.00 PM.**
For more details contact office/ website.

Thiruvalla Sd/-
30.07.2025 **General Manager (I/C)**

'Gajapayana', heralding the arrival of Dasara elephants, to be held today

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Temporary shelters created for elephants which will participate in the Dasara, at the palace grounds in Mysuru. M.A. SRIRAM

With just weeks to go for the grand Mysuru Dasara festival, scheduled to be held from September 22 to October 2, the stage is set for the launch of 'Gajapayana', the traditional but symbolic march of the elephants from the forest to the city royale, on Monday.

The flagging off, marking the symbolic march of the Dasara elephants, will take place at Veeranahosahalli on the fringes of Nagarahole Tiger Reserve, after the 'Gaja Puje' or special worship of the elephants slated to be held from 12.34 p.m. to 12.59 p.m. This also signals the countdown to Mysuru Dasara, and all activities will revolve around preparations for the annual event which is a fulcrum to highlight the culture of the State, and also promote tourism.

During the days of the Maharajas, 'Gajapayana' used to be a stately affair, and elephants would walk the entire distance from the forest camps to Mysuru city. The tradition, however, went out of vogue decades ago, and 'Gajapayana' was reintroduced about 20 years ago.

Though the elephants marched the entire distance in the first year after the reintroduction, it was discontinued from the subsequent years and the march became symbolic. Hence, the elephants, after the prayers and flagging off, walk a short distance at Veeranahosahalli and are shifted to trucks which ferries them to Mysuru.

District in charge Minister H.C. Mahadevappa, Forest Minister Eshwar B. Khandre, senior officials of the Forest Department, elected representatives from Mysuru, and others will take part in the 'Gajapayana'.

There will also be cultural programmes performed by members of the tribal community, and Tibetans from the adjoining Gurupura Tibetan camp.

The first batch of Dasara elephants will be led by tusker Abhimanyu, who is also slated to carry the golden howdah on the day of the procession. Other elephants that have been shortlisted include Dhananjaya, Bheema, Kanjan, Ekalavya, Prashanth, Mahendra, Kaveri, and Balle Lakshmi. The second batch of five elephants from other camps will join them latter during the month. The elephants will initially be lodged at Aranya Bhavan for a couple of days, before they march to the palace grounds which will be their temporary abode till the conclusion of Dasara.

Meanwhile, the district administration has completed all the arrangements for the stay of the elephants, the mahouts, and their family members at the palace grounds. Enclosures have been made for elephants while temporary staying facilities have been created for the mahouts. A team of veterinary officers will be in charge of the elephants which will remain on a special diet, and the bulk of the Forest Department staff will be deployed to look after them.

No private walking tours in Cubbon Park: Horticulture Department

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

After beginning its guided walking tour, Cubbon Walks, a week ago, the Horticulture Department has now halted private walking tours inside the Cubbon Park.

For years now, many private groups organised guided walks, including heritage walks, at the park. A recent government order specified the dos and don'ts of Cubbon Park that in order to conduct any activities that involve more than 20 people, prior permission should be taken. Authorities have now said that private walking tours inside the park will not be allowed for the time being.

"I received a call three days ago from the officials of the Horticulture Department asking me to cancel the heritage walk that was organised at the park during the weekend. They asked me to refund the money to those who had made the bookings and that I did not have permission to conduct the walk. I was also told to take down all the social media posts and blogs related to the heritage walks," said Raksha Nagaraj, founder of Bengaluru Prayana. We did not want to discourage the public from creating awareness about the history and flora and fauna of the Cubbon Park, however it should not be organised in the form of commercial programmes, the officials said.

Apart from walking tours, we are not permitting any commercial activities in Cubbon Park, including yoga and meditation, says Deputy Director

"The rules clearly say that prior permission should be taken before conducting commercial activities inside the park. Now even if private parties approach us to organise walks or other activities, we will not give them permission as we have to hold some discussions regarding this with our higher authorities and the Cubbon Park Conservation Committee," said G. Kusuma, Deputy Director, Cubbon Park, Horticulture Department.

Ms. Kusuma said, "We have no objections, if someone wants to do it for free. If the same people who are conducting private tours want to be integrated with our tours as guides, then we will see how we can accommodate that too. But we do not want people to make money using the name of Cubbon Park." This is not just for walking tours, we are not permitting any commercial activities in Cubbon Park, including yoga and meditation, the Deputy Director said.

Monopoly

The organisers of the private walking tour opined that not permitting other groups to conduct tours in the public park results in a monopoly like set up, especially since Cubbon Walks, organised by the department, also charges ₹200.

Residents of Balagere protest over lack of basic civic infrastructure

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An incomplete roadside storm-water drain on Balegere Main Road, near Varthur, in Bengaluru. ALLEN EGENUSE J.

The residents of Balagere near Varthur on Sunday protested against the civic authorities for the bad conditions of Balagere main road and pending works of storm-water drains, which cause water to stagnate on the road, especially during rains.

The protesters said that there was no underground drainage system in nearby rural area, and there was no proper Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) for apartments, due to which the situation has exacerbated.

They alleged that waste was dumped directly into the drain. Despite several complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), there had been no action to rectify the situation.

Yogendran, a resident, pointing out to the lack of infrastructure in the area, asked the BBMP officials and political leaders, "Can you walk on this road? Can you construct your house in this area given the condition of roads and poor drainage. How do you expect us to stay here and still pay our taxes?" The residents demanded the Bangalore Development Authority to stop giving approvals for construction in the area until basic infrastructure like underground drainage, storm-water drains, and road connectivity is established. They also demanded the establishment of a "tax payers' board."

PG owner arrested for raping inmate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Soladevanahalli police on Sunday arrested the owner of a Paying Guest accommodation for allegedly raping a 20-year-old resident.

He was identified as Ashraf, 37, a native of Kerala. He was running a PG accommodation for women at Soladevanahalli.

He reportedly befriended the victim who moved into the accommodation 10 days ago. In her complaint, the victim, who is a student from Kerala, said that Ashraf took her in his car to an isolated place on Friday midnight and raped her. He threatened her not to reveal it to anyone.

Based on the complaint, the police registered a case and arrested the accused.

Man roped in to assist in autopsy arrested for stealing ornaments of stampede victim

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Commercial Street police on Saturday arrested a 32-year-old former contract employee working at the mortuary of Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospitals for allegedly stealing earrings and a gold chain from the body of 13-year-old Divyanshi, who was among the 11 killed in the stampede at M. Chinnaswamy Stadium during the victory celebrations of Royal Challengers Bengaluru on June 4.

The accused, Stalin, 32, a resident of Vivek Nagar, was sacked from duty due to chronic alcoholism two months before the incident. However, due to the emergency situation when six bodies were brought to the mortuary on June 4, he was called back to assist the post-mortem that had to be completed in a short duration.

The accused had allegedly stolen the valuables from the deceased body. However, he lost them when he collapsed drunk on the road while returning home. The theft came to light when the victim's family members noticed the valuables missing and raised a complaint with the Bowring and Lady Curzon Hospitals mortuary staff. Since there was no response, she approached the police and filed a complaint on July 24.

In her complaint, the deceased's mother said that the earrings and gold chain worth ₹1 lakh was gifted by Divyanshi's uncle on her birthday and holds sentimental value.

Based on the complaint, the police conducted a detailed probe before zeroing in on Stalin. Though Stalin reportedly confessed to the crime, he told the police that he lost the valuables. The police conducted a spot inspection at the place where he reportedly collapsed drunk on the way home that day.

The footage from nearby CCTV cameras was being analysed to check if someone found the valuables or picked them up, the police said.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, AUG. 04	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 14:41	SET 01:19
TUESDAY, AUG. 05	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 15:36	SET 02:08
WEDNESDAY, AUG. 06	
RISE 06:06	SET 18:45
RISE 16:30	SET 03:02

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	29	21

Bengaluru Today
27°C The weather will be comfortable. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be comfortable. Spell of moderate rain and thundershower will occur.

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THE HINDU
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Sl No.	Village	Name of Land Owner	Sy No.	Extent
1	Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar	V.Lakshmidevi Wife of B.Srinivas	22/1	00 Acre 23 Guntas

Ramrao Kulkarni, Advocate,
No. 110/2, 1st Floor, Krishnappa Layout,
Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027.
Mobile:9986354084

Date: 04/08/2025

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Chairperson,
Tamil Nadu Real Estate
Regulatory Authority (TNRERA)

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Session 1 - 10:30 AM - 11:00 AM
Fireside Chat:
Vision for Tamil Nadu's Real Estate Growth
Arun M N, Founder, Chairman and Managing Director, Casagrand
Moderated by Rosella Stephen R, Senior Associate Editor, The Hindu

Session 2 - 11:05 AM - 12:05 PM
Tamil Nadu @ $1 Trillion: Role of Real Estate in Urban Transformation
W S Habib, President, CREDAI Tamil Nadu
Jerry Kingsley, Head of Value & Risk Advisory in India & City Capital Markets, Chennai JLL
Julian Francis, Senior Vice President - Asset Management, Chennai, and Head of Industrial & Logistics (I&L) at RMZ
Sripriya Ganesan, Co-founder of Studio Neon Attic
C G Sathish, Deputy Managing Director, Casagrand
Moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

Session 3 - 12:10 PM - 12:30 PM
Fireside Chat:
Navigating the Future of Real Estate in Tamil Nadu
Bala Ramajayam, Managing Director, Gsquare Group
Moderated by Sangeetha Kandavel, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu

Session 4 - 12:35 PM - 13:35 PM
Policy to Prosperity: RERA, Ease of Doing Business & Regulatory Outlook
Sanjay Chugh, City Head & Director ANAROCK Property Consultants Pvt Ltd, Chennai
Sridharan Swaminathan, Chairman, Sabari & LYRA Properties Pvt ltd, Executive Committee Member, CREDAI National Delhi
Jayaprakash Padmanaban, Senior Partner, Fox Mandal & Associates
Moderated by Kunal Shankar, Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu

Session 5 - 14:20 PM - 15:20 PM
Affordable Housing: Bridging the Urban Housing Gap
A Srivathsan, Professor, Head of the Centre for Research on Architecture and Urbanism at CEPT University
Vaneesa Peter, Founder, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities (IRCDUC)
R V Shekar, Chairman, Managing Director Lancor Group
P Suresh, Managing Director, Arun Excello Group
Moderated by R Sujatha, Former Deputy editor, The Hindu

Session 6 - 15:25 PM - 16:40 PM
Green is Gold: Sustainable Construction & Energy-Efficient Buildings
Dr. C Velan, CEO, CEEBROS Group
Sumitra Vasudevan, Associate Partner, APRObuild
Ajit Kumar Chordia, Managing Director Olympia Group, India
Nataraj S, Senior Assistant Vice President, Swelect
Moderated by Geetha Srimathi S, Senior Reporter, The Hindu

Session 7 - 16:45 PM - 17:15 PM
Fireside Chat:
Building Champions, Building Cities: The Role of Sports Infrastructure in Tamil Nadu's Growth
J Meghanatha Reddy, IAS, Member Secretary & CEO, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu (SDAT)
Moderated by K. C. Vijaya Kumar, Sports Editor, The Hindu

Session 8 - 17:20 PM - 18:20 PM
Tier II & III Cities:
The Next Real Estate Frontier
V S Sridhar, Executive Managing Director at Cushman & Wakefield Chennai
A Shankar, India Head - Government Advisory & Solutions, JLL India
Junaith Babu, Chief Operating Officer, Gsquare Group
R Vignesh, Managing Director, Shri Kailash Industrial and Logistics Parks
Moderated by Sangeetha Kandavel, Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu

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Buffer zones around waterbodies to be fixed based on size?

Karnataka Land Conservation and Development Authority says proposal has been mooted to promote infrastructure development and not to develop real estate

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State government has proposed to fix buffer zones for waterbodies, including tanks, lakes, and nalas, based on their size.

The Karnataka Land Conservation and Development Authority has clarified that the proposed buffer zone fixation is not to help real estate development but to have uniform zones based on the size of the waterbodies across the State.

As per the proposal, the buffer zone is sought to be removed for tanks with area less than five guntas, while setting a three-metre buffer for tanks with an area between five guntas and one acre; six metres for tanks between one acre and 10 acres; 13 metres for tanks between 10 and 25 acres; 24 metres for tanks between 25 acres and 100 acres, and 30 metres for tanks that are bigger than 100 acres.

Currently, the buffer zone in Karnataka is based on the National Green Tribunal order of 2016 pertaining to lakes in Bengaluru that was subsequently modified by the Supreme Court. FILE PHOTO

For primary canals, the government has proposed to bring down the buffer zone from the current 30 to 15 metres. For secondary canals, it will be reduced from 15 to 10 metres and for tertiary canals from 10 to five metres.

Currently, the buffer zone in the State is based on the National Green Tribunal (NGT) order of 2016 pertaining to lakes in Bengaluru that was subsequently modified by the Supreme Court.

Orders in 2019

The State government issued orders for the current buffer zone in 2019. Accordingly, the buffer zone for lakes was fixed at 30 metres, for primary canals at 30 metres, secondary canals at 25 metres, and tertiary canals at 10 metres.

In Karnataka, 41,849 lakes have been identified for having an area between one gunta and 1,000 acres. Some of the public services such as drinking water pipelines, underground electricity cables, roads, bridges connecting to major roads, lift irrigation projects, jack wells, pump houses, and sewage water treatment facilities, among many others, are in the buffer zones.

A note from the authority on Sunday said that the proposed buffer zone, a first-of-its-kind in the country, is based on the studies conducted in different States and petitions received from the Kundapur legislator and the Deputy Commissioner of Udupi, who said that uniform buffer zone for waterbodies has been fixed without considering the size and the same had been made applicable to waterbodies irrespective of whether they are one gunta or 1,000 acres.

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar held meetings following which a committee had been set up to study the issue.

The note said that in many cases in Udupi, it was found that the buffer zones were bigger than the waterbodies.

Other States

It said that in Tamil Nadu, a uniform buffer zone of three metres has been fixed, while in Gujarat, the buffer zone is nine metres. In Telangana, a buffer zone of 30 metres has been fixed for tanks bigger than 10 hectares and a buffer of nine metres is fixed for tanks below nine hectares.

Outlining benefits of the new proposal, the authority argued that only those projects that are in the interest of public services would be taken up without obstructing the inflow of water to the waterbodies. In several places, the declared buffer zones have private properties where no construction zone is in effect, it said, adding that the proposed buffer zone would help mitigate floods in urban centres and helps in development of infrastructure.

It also said that the new buffer zones would help in setting up sewage treatment plants near waterbodies to prevent its pollution and the reduction of buffer zones would not affect aquatic life.

The new proposal is a balance between development and conservation issues, it claimed.

Farmers defend their reliance on fertilizer

The Hindu Bureau
HUBBALLI/ BELAGAVI/ KALABURAGI

While experts emphasise the need to scale down the use of urea, many farmers defend their increased reliance on the supplement.

"Floods have become more frequent in recent years. When fields remain submerged for days, crops, especially cotton, bananas, and chillies, suffer severely. Leaves turn yellow, plants wilt, and often wither. Applying urea at that stage works like a miracle. Within a week, the crops bounce back – green, healthy, and growing again," said Sharanabasappa Mamshetti, district president of the Karnataka Prantha Raitha Sangha.

Nano urea

Although nano urea is promoted as a more efficient alternative, farmers are not still convinced about its efficacy, he said.

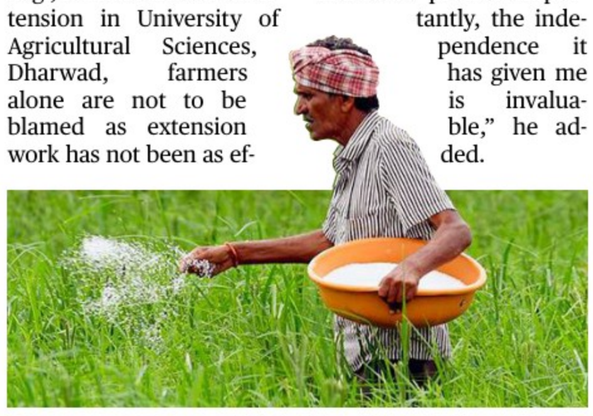
According to Vithal Benagi, former director of extension in University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, farmers alone are not to be blamed as extension work has not been as efficient as it should have been.

On the other hand, Raju Teggelli, head of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Kalaburagi), under the University of Agricultural Sciences, Raichur, acknowledged the difficulty in changing established practices. "We have been working to educate farmers on the importance of balanced nutrient management. But old habits die hard," he said.

Alternatives

Meanwhile, there are farmers who have adopted alternatives to tackle the issue. Prakash and Anuradha Kulkarni, certified organic farmers from Honnihal village in Belagavi district, say they have managed to grow a variety of crops without using urea for over 14 years now.

"I no longer depend on the market or the government for inputs like fertilizers or pesticides. I prepare all my inputs on my farm. It has reduced my cost and increased profits. Importantly, the independence it has given me is invaluable," he added.



Urea shortage: More than meets the eye

Kumar Buradikatti
Rishikesh Bahadur Desai
Girish Pattanashetti
KALABURAGI/BELAGAVI/ HUBBALLI

The increased demand for urea and reported non-availability of the same in the market, leading to protests by farmers in some districts of North and Central Karnataka, have more to it than what meets the eye.

Early and copious rainfall has led to increased demand for crystalline urea by the farmers who believe in conventional farming and are averse to the use of nano urea despite efforts to promote it.

After the Chief Minister wrote to the Centre on the need for more supply, a delegation of MPs from North Karnataka also met the Union Minister concerned seeking more supply for the kharif season. But it will take some time for the supply to reach.

Recurring issue

The issue of scarcity of fertilizers is not new in Karnataka. Variations in the demand-and-supply chain have caused problems earlier also, the worst being the police firing in Haveri in 2008, when protests over fertilizers turned violent ultimately resulting in the death of two farmers and a few being crippled for life.

This year's situation has brought to the fore several other related issues, including the black market.

In Davangere district, where paddy and maize cultivation has gained momentum, the administration has cancelled the licences of eight wholesale dealers for illegally selling urea to other districts and suspending the licences of six retailers for fleecing the farmers. Now each farmer gets two bags of urea.

Early and copious rainfall has led to increased demand for crystalline urea from the farmers. ARUN KULKARNI

According to Deputy Commissioner of Davangere G.M. Gangadharswamy, panic was owing to increased demand although the district has additional stock of 3,000 MT of urea. Now the district administration has also launched awareness campaign to promote nano urea instead of crystalline urea.

In an attempt to cut overuse subtly, the government has reduced the standard urea bag size from 50 to 45 kg.

While the increased demand is one aspect, the larger issue lies elsewhere, says Chamarasa Malipatil, honorary president of the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha. "Stockpiling by dealers during the off season to sell at inflated prices, and efforts to push nano urea, which is far more profitable for manufacturers, are the real causes," he argued.

Sidagouda Modagi, Krishik Samaj leader, says the lack of efficient rural cooperatives is another key factor. "On the other hand, the Central government that enjoys a near monopoly on the urea stocks and transport and the State government that manages the last-mile delivery have not done their job properly," he said.

Multiple reasons

According to Vithal Benagi, former director of extension in University of Agriculture Sciences, Dharwad, urea scarcity is brought on by factors including change in rainfall patterns, overuse by farmers, and policy errors by the government.

Most farmers tend to overuse urea for its nitrogen content. Nitrogen makes plants greener and succulent and increases yields slightly. However, overuse leads to acidification of soil, nitrate pollution in water, and damage to the ozone layer, due to air pollution.

It also makes plants susceptible to pest attacks, forcing farmers to use more pesticides. This is a vicious cycle. Moreover as urea is available for ₹280 to ₹300 per bag, it is preferred over other inputs.

Sidharam Patil, of College of Agriculture under the University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad, underlines how overuse of urea is affecting soil health and also public health.

"The problem is particularly acute in North Karnataka, where black calcareous soils, rich in calcium carbonate and low in iron, are especially vulnerable. This iron deficiency often leads to chlorosis (yellowing of leaves), which should ideally be corrected with micronutrients like iron sulfate. However, farmers often resort to urea instead. While it temporarily restores the green appearance of plants, it does not address the root cause," Prof. Patil explained.

Human health at risk

Rising nitrate levels in groundwater owing to excessive urea use is another matter of concern which has direct impact on public health, informs Prof. Patil. "High nitrate levels in drinking water are contributing to cases of blue baby syndrome (infant methemoglobinemia), where infants develop bluish skin owing to reduced oxygen levels in the blood," Prof. Patil said.

CM slams Ram Sene leader for poisoning drinking water

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has condemned a Sri Ram Sene leader and two others for poisoning a drinking water tank in Hoolikatti village near Saundatti in Belagavi district near a school, with the intention of ensuring the transfer of a Muslim headmaster.

The three accused have been arrested with respect to the incident that occurred on July 14. "Three people, including Sri Ram Sene taluk president Sagar Patil, have been arrested for poisoning the drinking water of schoolchildren in Hoolikatti with the malicious intention of transferring the headmaster of the government school. Many children fell ill in this incident that took place 15 days ago. Fortunately, no one was killed," Mr. Siddaramaiah said in a social media post.

"This incident, which could have led to the massacre of small children, is proof that religious fundamentalism and communal hatred can lead to any heinous act. Is it possible for such a level of hatred to arise in the land of the Sharanas?" he said.

"We have formed a special task force to prevent hate speeches and communal riots, and we are taking all possible action against such people within the ambit of the law. For all our efforts to bear fruit, the public should also raise their voice against such forces, resist them, and file complaints," the CM said.

Meanwhile, Bheemashankar S. Guled, Belagavi SP, told reporters on Saturday that Sagar Patil and Nagangouda Patil had blackmailed Krishna Madar, a local, and ordered him to poison the water.

Krishna Madar bought three types of insecticide and put the mixture in a juice packet. He convinced a primary school student to empty the contents of the packet into the water.

Further investigation is on, he added.

Nadda makes quick visit to Bengaluru

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

BJP national president J.P. Nadda made a quick visit to Bengaluru to attend a private programme on Sunday.

He was received at the airport by BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra and Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok and other leaders. Mr. Nadda left for Delhi on Sunday night.

Meanwhile, Mr. Vijayendra said in a social media post that Mr. Nadda had been briefed about Karnataka's political developments and the party's organisational progress.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

From a young age

Wards of political families by default get early exposure to politics and get public recognition as the son or daughter of a so-and-so leader. Once they reach adulthood, in most cases their photographs start finding space on political banners, most of the time by design and on a few occasions owing to over-enthusiastic fans. No doubt, male heirs get political grooming by the heads of the political families.

But banner politics seems to have reached a new level these days. During the recent Gokak Jatra Mahotsav, which is celebrated once in a decade, one could see the photograph of the youngest member of the Jarkiholi family on the banners put up across the town for welcoming devotees to the fair. Along with the banners of the Jarkiholi brothers in one frame, the photographs of the children of the family were also put up in the town. Those banners had the photograph of a small child also.

MLA's open choices

MLA for Mudigere Nayana Motamma's recent speech at a programme by the Hindu Maha Ganapathi Seva Samiti in Mudigere has gone viral. The first-time Congress MLA shared the dais with BJP MLC and Legislative Council Deputy Chairman M.K. Pranesh and founder of Sri Rama Sene Pramod Mutalik.

Knowing well that her participation in the programme would raise eyebrows, the MLA stated that she was participating as an office-bearer of the organising committee. However, she went on to say that the question of whether she would remain in the Congress or join the BJP or any other party would be known after three years, when her current term as MLA ends. Not stopping at that, she said that her mother and former Minister Motamma had once opposed the entry of the Sri Rama Sene founder into Chikkamagaluru following communal violence in the district. "However, now I am welcoming him. I feel I have a bright future, and I am confident that I will get all your cooperation in the future," she stated. Her speech has given rise to speculations about her future moves. However, in a social media post, she said that she was clear about her choices and nobody should try to fit her in any particular box, leaving her choices wide open.

Girish Pattanashetti
Sathish G.T.

'BJP State chief will soon be elected unanimously'

The Hindu Bureau
BELAGAVI

The process to elect the BJP State president has started and very soon, a leader will be unanimously elected, said Pralhad Joshi, Union Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, in Dharwad on Sunday.

"Neither B.Y. Vijayendra nor V. Somanna have declared that they will be the president. Some of their followers may have felt so and expressed their desire openly. But whether it is Mr. Vijayendra or Mr. Somanna, the president will be elected unopposed," Mr. Joshi said.

"The process of appointing presidents is on in several States. The system in our party is that presidents are not nominated. They are elected. The election may be unanimous at times," he said.

Bommai: Release evidence to prove voter fraud

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Arguing that it is not proper for the Congress to defame constitutional institutions for political motives, former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Sunday urged the Congress to release evidence to prove their charges that voter fraud had taken place in the Lok Sabha elections.

"The evidence is an atom bomb. If you do not release it, then it may explode right there amid you," Mr. Bommai told presspersons in Bengaluru.

He expressed concern that the Congress was creating doubts over the integrity of constitutional institutions in the name of voter fraud. "First, they tried to cast suspicion on EVMs, and now they are targeting the commission itself. When a demonstration was organised to clarify the confusion about EVM hacking, the Congress did not attend," he said.

Pointing out that the State government officials serve as chief electoral officers and that political parties are also allowed to appoint their representatives at booths, he argued that it was unfair to target the commission now.

Mr. Bommai alleged that the Congress had resorted to such allegations as it was shocked over Narendra Modi becoming Prime Minister for the third time.

GUJARAT INDUSTRIES POWER CO. LTD.
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TENDER FOR BOILER MAINTENANCE CONTRACT (BMC) FOR 4X125 MW CFBC BOILERS & ITS AUXILIARIES INCLUDING ANNUAL OVERHAULING FOR THE YEAR 2025-27 (TWO YEARS) AT SURAT LIGNITE POWER PLANT (SLPP).
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OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

N RAJASHEKAR (66), Retired Regional General Manager (Admin), The Hindu, Bengaluru passed away on 03-August-2025. Address: 50, Nanjappa Road, Shanthi Nagar, Bengaluru - 560027. Ct: 9845054785

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

FIRST YEAR ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of our Mother

Smt.Ratnam Ramachandran
From:
Ravi, Rajan & Family

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

THIRD YEAR REMEMBRANCE

SMT. SARASWATHI PITCHUMANI
(RETD. DCE/CHENNAI)
09/10/1951 - 04/08/2022
Remembering you every moment with lots of love in our hearts.
Husband/Sons/Daughters-in-law and Grand son
98400 70616

INBRIEF

Naidu hails success of 'She Leads Andhra' pilot project

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu has commended the success of "She Leads Andhra" pilot project implemented in Kuppam Assembly Constituency. The project enabled 93 rural SHG women to generate ₹15 lakh in business in just 90 days through digital commerce, said Project Director, Kuppam Area Development Authority (KADA), Vikar Marmat.

Kerala teachers to tackle snake encounters in schools

As snake sightings surge on school premises, teachers in Kerala are set to receive specialised training in snake rescue and handling. The Forest Department is set to launch a pilot programme in Palakkad district, which has consistently recorded some of the highest numbers of snake encounters in the State. The initiative is a key component of the Snake Awareness Rescue and Protection App (SARPA) mission and is expected to be expanded to other schools across Kerala.

Inter-State horse betting racket busted; ₹4.47L seized

An illegal inter-State horse betting racket was busted by the Special Operations Team, Malkajgiri, along with Jawahar Nagar police, leading to the arrest of four persons and the seizure of ₹2 lakh in cash. Bank accounts holding another ₹2.47 lakh were frozen, taking the total seizure to ₹4.47 lakh. They were identified as Thokala Nagesh, Borra Venkaiah Chowdary, Challa Ramesh Babu and D. Sunil. Two others, M. Rajesh Kumar of Malakpet and Venkat Chowdary of Vijayawada, are yet to be nabbed.

Six Odisha workers killed in rock collapse at A.P. quarry

Four were killed on the spot, two died in hospital, three injured persons are out of danger, says police officer; Chief Minister orders an investigation, directs officials to arrange medical care

G.V.R. Subba Rao
VIJAYAWADA

Six workers were killed following a rock collapse at a granite quarry near Ballikurava in Bapatla district of Andhra Pradesh on Sunday.

According to preliminary reports, massive rocks collapsed on migrant workers from Odisha while quarry operations were under way, resulting in instant fatalities and injuries.

Bapatla SP Tushar Dudi said nine workers were trapped under the debris and rescue operations were launched immediately. Four were killed on the spot, while the remaining five were shifted to hospital, where two more died while undergoing treatment. "The remaining victims are out of danger," he added.

A case has been registered and investigation is on.

The State government has promised full support to the families of the deceased, and affirmed that medical care for the injured will be prioritised.

Chief Minister N. Chandrababu Naidu expressed deep sorrow over the incident.

He said it was extremely painful that so many lives were lost while the workers were on duty. He directed the officials to ensure the best possible medical care for the injured, and ordered a thorough investigation into the cause of the incident.

Expressing deep shock and sorrow over the loss of lives, Mines Minister Kollu Ravindra said strict action would be taken against those found responsible for the tragedy.

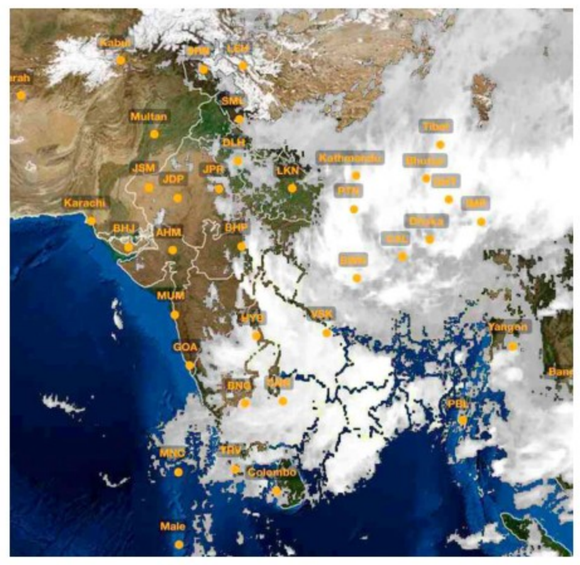
Officials inspecting the site where rocks collapsed at a quarry at Ballikurava in Bapatla district on Sunday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

People allege neglect

The local people alleged that quarry accidents near Ballikurava had become alarmingly frequent, and despite repeated incidents, authorities had failed to enforce safety protocols. They urged the government to take immediate and strict measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 17.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy rainfall likely in Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala, Mahe, West Bengal, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Karaikal, Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Thunderstorm, lightning and gusty winds likely in Kerala, Mahe, Lakshadweep and Rayalaseema

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	32.6	27.1	Kozhikode	0.6	31.4	24.0
Ahmedabad	16.0	32.6	24.4	Kurnool	—	35.0	26.0
Aizawl	3.0	29.5	22.2	Lucknow	5.0	28.5	27.2
Allahabad	34.0	27.0	25.2	Madurai	0.2	33.0	24.3
Bengaluru	—	29.5	21.5	Mangaluru	0.9	29.1	22.5
Bhopal	—	31.3	24.0	Mumbai	3.0	31.0	25.3
Bhubaneswar	24.0	36.0	25.0	Mysuru	29.0	30.0	20.0
Chandigarh	12.0	34.7	26.0	New Delhi	15.2	34.2	23.6
Chennai	—	36.3	27.8	Patna	31.0	29.4	26.8
Coimbatore	—	31.4	22.0	Port Blair	3.0	30.2	25.7
Dehradun	3.0	32.0	25.2	Puducherry	—	35.7	25.7
Gangtok	20.0	21.2	19.0	Pune	1.0	31.5	22.8
Goa	3.0	31.3	25.0	Raipur	—	34.8	25.9
Guwahati	2.0	30.5	27.1	Ranchi	—	28.4	23.6
Hubballi	—	29.0	22.0	Shillong	32.0	20.8	18.6
Hyderabad	—	32.7	24.7	Shimla	5.0	25.6	19.8
Imphal	6.0	28.8	22.5	Srinagar	—	31.4	18.7
Jaipur	—	33.4	26.6	Thiruvananthapuram	—	27.0	23.8
Kochi	8.8	28.6	23.4	Tiruchi	9.0	34.1	24.8
Kohima	39.0	22.2	19.0	Vijayawada	—	—	—
Kolkata	—	31.6	28.4	Visakhapatnam	—	34.0	28.1

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	14	34	26	40	
Bengaluru	9	16	18	21	30	
Chennai	16	6	48	30	23	
Delhi	10	26	10	60	57	
Hyderabad	5	28	5	53	—	
Kolkata	3	49	16	78	81	
Lucknow	—	9	37	37	25	
Mumbai	1	6	6	15	24	
Pune	3	4	21	32	—	
Visakhapatnam	9	29	9	84	130	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Dholpur, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 218 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Thanjavur, Tamil Nadu recorded a healthy AQI score of 23.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Kerala Ministers hold talks with Governor on higher education crisis

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's Higher Education Minister R. Bindu and Law Minister P. Rajeeve called on Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar at the Raj Bhavan on Sunday as part of the State government's continuing efforts to resolve various issues affecting the higher education sector.

The discussion sought to reach a consensus on the appointment of Vice-Chancellors in State-run universities. The government's reconciliation bid reportedly follows a directive by Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

While the Governor had called the Principal Secretary of the Higher Education Department for talks, the Chief Minister apparently deployed the Ministers instead to impress upon the Governor the government's commitment in addressing the challenges, sources said.

During the meeting, the Ministers reiterated the government's stand that the Supreme Court's directive for collaborative governance in university matters must be followed in spirit and practice.

They are also learnt to have raised concern over the recent appointment of interim V-Cs at Digital University Kerala (DUK) and APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University (KTU), claiming that the appointment did not adhere to the Supreme Court guidelines.

Kaleshwaram 'collapse': inquiry finds KCR solely responsible

R. Ravikanth Reddy
HYDERABAD

Former Telangana Chief Minister and BRS leader K. Chandrasekhar is solely responsible for the irregularities and structural defects in the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project on the Godavari, says the Ghose Commission report.

The Revanth Reddy government had set up the Commission of Inquiry, led by Justice Pinaki Chandra Ghose, after a few piers in the Medigadda barrage of the project sank.

The commission held KCR primarily accountable for bypassing established procedures and ignoring expert advice, resulting in colossal public expenditure and infrastructure now in distress.

The then Minister for Irrigation, T. Harish Rao, intentionally ignored the Expert Committee report while the then Finance Minister Eatala Rajender demonstrated lack of integrity in safeguarding the financial and economic health of Telangana, the report said.

The findings reveal that a panel had advised against constructing the Medigadda barrage due to high costs and time delays, recommending alternative sites like Vemanapally. But it was intentionally suppressed. The decision to construct the three barrages was not a collective Cabinet resolution but "the sole and individual decision" of KCR. S.K.Joshi, then Principal Secretary to Government on Irrigation should be held liable for violating rules in administrative approvals.

Looms of legacy

Weaving wonders: Union Coal and Mines Minister G. Kishan Reddy participating in the inauguration of the week-long celebrations to mark National Handloom Day at Shilparamam in Hyderabad on Sunday. National Handloom Day will be celebrated on August 7. SIDDHANT THAKUR

Internal quota: Parameshwara tells groups not to protest

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Home Minister G. Parameshwara here on Sunday said that the Congress government was committed to implementing internal reservation for Scheduled Caste communities in the State and appealed to those threatening to stage protest seeking implementation of it to not do so.

G. Parameshwara FILE PHOTO

'Need some time'

"We had made the declaration on internal reservation in Chitradurga and we have also committed to it in our manifesto. Whatever we need to do should be done according to the procedure and guidelines issued by the Supreme Court. We are committed to implementing internal reservation; procedures have to be followed for which we need some time," he told presspersons.

Protest threats

His statement comes in the light of Dalit left (Madigas) groups threatening a protest from August 11.

Dalit left leaders from the BJP, including Govind Karjol and A. Narayanaswamy, have also made such a threat.

The Minister said that the commission, headed by retired judge H.N. Nagamohan Das, would submit its report to the government on August 4. It would discussed in the State Cabinet and steps would be taken to implement the recommendations.

The A.J. Sadashiva Commission report was not accepted by the then BJP government because of data issues.

On the meeting of Ministers from the Scheduled Caste community that he had convened, Dr. Parameshwara said that it was decided to have a common voice on the internal reservation.

"If there are any issues with communities, it was decided to talk to them."

'Tipu Sultan laid the foundation stone for KRS'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The foundation stone for Krishnaraja Sagar (KRS) built across river Cauvery in Srirangapatna was originally laid by the eighteenth century ruler Tipu Sultan, said Minister for Social Welfare H.C. Mahadevappa.

Speaking after laying the foundation stone for Ambedkar Bhavan in Srirangapatna near here on Sunday, Mr. Mahadevappa said the foundation stone for the reservoir laid by Tipu Sultan is found at its entrance.

Claiming that nobody had the courage to say so now, the Minister quoted B.R. Ambedkar and said that people who "don't know history cannot create it". Srirangapatna, which is a historically significant place, was the capital of the region during the reign of Tipu Sultan.

H.C. Mahadevappa

Mr. Mahadevappa said that Tipu had a mosque on one side and a temple on the other. "He would hear Allahu Akbar from one end and the temple bells on the other," he remarked.

The Minister went on to credit the abolition of the Devadasi system to Tipu Sultan, and said that the erstwhile ruler also strove to protect the interests of oppressed classes.

Further, Mr. Mahadevappa said that sericulture was introduced in the country for the first time by Tipu Sultan.

Describing Tipu Sultan as a freedom fighter who fought against the British at the battlefield and even forged an alliance with the French to counter them, Mr. Mahadevappa said that ruler turned Gubbi and Harihar into commercial centres.

Taking exception to the people who "do not understand Tipu Sultan", Mr. Mahadevappa said that the eighteenth century ruler did not discriminate among his subjects.

'Ridiculous'

The scion of the erstwhile Mysore royal family Yaduveer Krishnadatta Chamaraja Wadiyar, MP, has termed Dr. Mahadevappa's statement as "ridiculous".

Reacting to the statement, Mr. Wadiyar said there was no proof to support the Social Welfare Minister's claim that Tipu Sultan laid the foundation stone for KRS.

Emphasising the need to provide evidence when referring to historical matters, Mr. Wadiyar said there was no need to create "politically convenient" history just to appease a section of society.

Forest Dept. orders probe into death of leopard in Karnataka

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (Wildlife) has asked the Chief Conservator of Forests (CCF) of Shivamogga Circle to probe into the death of leopard reported in Kadur taluk on July 31.

The CCF of Shivamogga has been asked to submit a report within seven days.

A male leopard was found dead in Madagada tank near Emmedoddi in Kadur taluk on July 31. Earlier in the day, two villagers were attacked by a leopard in the same locality.

There were speculations that the leopard that attacked villagers and the animal which was found dead later were the same. Besides that, there were reports that the animal was captured in Chikkanayakanahalli range of Tumakuru district on July 30 and the forest officials allegedly released it near Madagada tank, violating the protocol meant for releasing the wild animals.

'Protocol violation'

Following reports about the violation of the protocol in handling the captured wild animal and the death of leopard in Kadur taluk, the Forest Department had ordered the probe.

A male leopard was found dead in Madagada tank near Emmedoddi in Kadur taluk on July 31. The CCF has been asked to submit a report within seven days

The inquiry officer has been asked to find out if the leopard captured in Tumakuru district and the one that attacked villagers in Kadur taluk was the same, secondly, if the leopard that attacked villagers was the one that was found dead later. Besides that the officer has to probe into the death of the leopard.

An unravelling

Malegaon acquittals expose systemic investigative failures

The 2008 Malegaon blast, killing six and injuring 95 others, during Ramzan, was an extreme act of terror. The initial investigation by the Maharashtra Anti-Terrorism Squad (ATS) posited a chilling conspiracy by Hindutva extremists to exact revenge through a "blast for a blast", emulating the polarising methods of Islamist terror groups. This narrative seemed solidified by circumstantial evidence, including electronic transcripts of secret meetings and a confession by Sangh Parivar activist Aseemanand. The case was politically fraught from the start. The ATS investigation was a pivotal moment, as it sought to identify perpetrators irrespective of religion, especially after Muslim youth were wrongly charged and later acquitted in the 2006 Malegaon blasts. However, this unbiased approach appeared to falter with the consolidation of Hindutva political power. After the case was transferred to the National Investigation Agency (NIA), the agency filed a supplementary charge sheet. Amid allegations that the NIA was under pressure to be lenient, a Special Court rightly ruled in 2018 that a full trial was the best course. Seventeen years later, the final acquittal of all accused, including Lt. Col. Prasad Purohit and Pragya Singh Thakur, leaves a profound sense of unease. Far from refuting the existence of Hindutva-led extremism, the judgment is an indictment of the prosecution's methods and a reminder of how justice can be undone.

The court exposed a foundation of unreliable evidence, noting that key witnesses turned hostile, alleging coercion by the ATS – a claim also noted by the NIA. The explosive electronic transcripts were deemed inadmissible for failing to meet mandatory legal safeguards against tampering. The court also rejected the defence of Purohit, who argued that he was a military intelligence officer infiltrating the group, but acquitted him as the evidence failed to meet what it saw as the legal standard for a conviction. The political circumstances suggest a consistent attempt to reframe the alleged acts of terror not as criminal, but with a communal narrative. In 2019, while still under trial for grave terror charges, Pragya Thakur was fielded as a parliamentary candidate by the Bharatiya Janata Party and won from Bhopal. Her political elevation as a Hindutva icon was precisely because of her purported role in fomenting retaliatory attacks against Muslims. Her subsequent career, marked by an endorsement of Mahatma Gandhi's assassin, Nathuram Godse, has only confirmed the dangerous mainstreaming of extremist voices. The acquittal lays bare the unsettling reality that when state agencies fail, extremist organisations can get away with heinous crimes. Terror has no single religious face and, without a competent and scrupulous policing, prosecution and justice system, its perpetrators, whoever they may be, can walk free.

Rape and punishment

Victims of assault must be encouraged to testify without fear

Powerful perpetrators are rarely made accountable for their actions, and in that backdrop, the conviction and life sentencing of Prajwal Revanna, former Janata Dal (Secular) Member of Parliament and grandson of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda, for a heinous crime comes as a relief. This is the first of the four cases of rape and sexual harassment against the 34-year-old Gowda scion. The former Member of Parliament had raped a 48-year-old domestic worker twice at the family's homes in Hassan and Bengaluru in 2021, and recorded it on his mobile phone. In April 2024, ahead of the general election, explicit clips of his sexual misdemeanours were leaked through pen drives strewn across public places in Hassan, the Gowda home town. In the videos, Revanna's face is not visible, only the women's, a gross violation of their safety and privacy. The former help and other women came forward with their complaints but their agony was far from over. Using political muscle, and aided by his parents, former Minister H.D. Revanna and Bhavani Revanna, he did his best to arm twist the system, threatening a survivor, trying to stop her from testifying. But a Special Investigation Team (SIT) worked with alacrity and he was finally arrested in May 2024. The SIT filed the first charge sheet in August 2024.

The video, where the domestic worker is seen pleading with Prajwal Revanna to spare her, DNA analysis and her testimony formed key evidence in the trial which began in May this year. The Special Court of Sessions to hear criminal cases against former and present Members of Parliament and MLAs pronounced the verdict on August 1. The speedy trial and conviction will give hope to other survivors battling for justice in sexual assault cases. The court convicted Revanna on all charges framed against him, including under Sections 376(2)(n) (repeated rape on the same woman), 506 (criminal intimidation), 201 (disappearance of evidence) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC) and 66E (violation of privacy) of the Information Technology Act, 2000. Section 376 (2) of the IPC states that a person convicted under it "shall be punished with rigorous imprisonment for a term which shall not be less than 10 years, but which may extend to imprisonment for life...." Often, even when multiple complaints are raised, leaders with political clout get away. The laws are in place. All that the government machinery needs to do is act swiftly and sensitively, and create a safe space so that survivors of sexual abuse can come forward without fear.

The 'right to repair' must include 'right to remember'

Kinnari Gatare

is a researcher in Human Computer Interaction (HCI) and a former UX Design Consultant, National Programme on Technology Enhanced Learning (NPTEL), Indian Institute of Technology Madras

In May 2025, the Indian government took a significant step toward promoting sustainable electronics. It accepted a report proposing a Repairability Index for mobile phones and appliances, ranking products based on ease of repair, spare part access, and software support. New e-waste policies now include minimum payments to incentivise formal recycling. These are timely moves.

But as India takes steps toward making repair a consumer right, we must also treat it as a cultural and intellectual resource – a form of knowledge that deserves preservation and support. India's digital and Artificial Intelligence (AI) policy landscape is evolving rapidly. Initiatives such as Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) and the National Strategy on Artificial Intelligence (NSAI) emphasise innovation, data-driven governance and economic efficiency. Yet, the systems that quietly sustain everyday life – especially the informal repair and maintenance economy – remain largely invisible in digital and policy frameworks.

In an age of cloud backups and algorithmic processing, it is easy to forget the value of knowledge that cannot be codified. Much of India's repair expertise lives in muscle memory, quiet observation, and years of hands-on improvisation. This tacit knowledge is vital to India's material resilience. From mobile fixers in Delhi's Karol Bagh to appliance technicians in Chennai's Ritchie Street, repairers keep devices working well past their planned obsolescence. "If we don't fix it, who will?" says a mobile repairer in Ritchie Street. "People throw things out. But we see what can be made new." Their tools may be modest and their workshops discreet, but their work reflects deep ingenuity. They restore devices not by consulting manuals, but by diagnosing faults through sensory cues, reusing components, and adapting creatively to constraints. Yet, this ecosystem is gradually eroding. As product designs become less repairable and consumer habits shift toward disposability, informal repairers find themselves increasingly locked out of markets, of skilling programmes, and of policy attention. What risks being lost is not only economic opportunity but also a vast, undocumented reservoir of knowledge that has long supported India's technological resilience.

Why tacit knowledge matters

"I learnt by watching my uncle," says an appliance repairer in Bhopal. "He never explained with words. He just showed me once, and expected me to try. That's how we pass it on." Tacit knowledge refers to forms of skill and intuition that are difficult to formalise. In India's repair economy, this expertise is typically passed down through mentorship, observation, and repetition – not through formal training or certification. It is inherently adaptive and context-sensitive, qualities that structured digital systems, including AI, often struggle to replicate. As AI advances, it increasingly draws on insights shaped by this kind of labour. However, mechanisms to acknowledge or equitably involve the contributors of this knowledge are still evolving. The result is a growing imbalance: AI systems continue to improve, while the communities enabling that learning often remain unrecognised. Globally, the Right to Repair movement has gained momentum. The European Union recently introduced rules requiring manufacturers to provide access to spare parts and repair documentation. In India, the Department of Consumer Affairs launched a Right to Repair framework in 2022, followed by a national portal in 2023 covering electronics, automobiles, and farm equipment. Meanwhile, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 12 promotes repair as part of responsible consumption. India now has the opportunity to lead by recognising repair not just as a service but also as a form of knowledge work.

> As India invests in AI infrastructure and digital public goods, it must align these ambitions with the ground realities of repair and an established culture of innovation and frugality

The blind spot in India's digital policy

In 2021-22, India generated over 1.6 million tonnes of e-waste, becoming the world's third-largest producer. The E-Waste (Management) Rules, 2022 introduced Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) – a principle that makes manufacturers responsible for post-use product management. However, while these rules encourage recycling, they make only a passing mention of repair as a preventive strategy. National skilling programmes such as the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) focus on short-term certifications for formal industrial roles. Repair work, which requires improvisation, diagnostic skill and creative reuse does not easily fit this framework. Similarly, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 celebrates Indian knowledge traditions and experiential learning but offers little guidance on how to support or transmit hands-on repair expertise. Campaigns such as Mission LiFE (LiFEStyle For Environment) promote repair and reuse, but complementary efforts are needed to support the workers who make such sustainability practices possible. While policies now champion circularity, they risk leaving behind the very workforce whose skills make it real.

As sustainability becomes a national priority, policymakers and technologists are reconsidering how we design, discard, and extend the life of everyday products. One emerging idea in research is 'unmaking' – the process of taking apart, repairing or repurposing devices after their first use, revealing design flaws and opportunities for reuse. Breakdowns and repairs are not failures; they are feedback loops and sources of practical insight. A discarded circuit board can become a teaching tool. A salvaged phone part can restore someone's access to work or school. A broken appliance can be repaired and reused. Informal repairers perform this work daily. Their labour sits at the centre of the circular economy, where reuse is not an afterthought but a design principle. Recognising them as stewards of sustainability – not marginal figures – can reshape how we think about environmental and digital innovation alike.

AI-enabled solutions for repair justice

India's culture of *jugaad* and frugality long pre-dates today's tech-forward policies. Repairers have always adapted across devices and decades, with minimal support. As the country invests in AI infrastructure and digital public goods, it must align these ambitions with the ground realities of repair. Most modern gadgets are built for compactness and control, not repair. According to a 2023 iFixit global report, only 23% of smartphones sold in Asia are easily repairable due to design constraints. To change this, design norms and procurement policies must include repairability from the start. To make technology genuinely sustainable, public policy must consider not only how products are manufactured and used but also how they break down, are repaired, and find new life. A shift toward designing for "unmaking", where disassembly and repair are anticipated from the outset, should inform both hardware standards and AI-integrated systems.

This transition will require coordinated institutional action. The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology can embed repairability criteria into AI and procurement policies. The Department of Consumer Affairs could expand the Right to Repair framework to include product classification and community involvement. Platforms such as e-Shram, under the Ministry of Labour and Employment, can formally recognise informal repairers and connect them to social protection and skill-building schemes. The Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship can consider training programmes to account for the tacit, diagnostic nature of repair work, which does not conform to standardised industrial templates. To support this, decision trees can help codify typical repair pathways, while Large Language Models can capture, summarise, and translate tacit repair narratives into structured, shareable knowledge, enabling broader learning without stripping local context or expertise.

Supporting this ecosystem is not merely a question of intellectual property or technical efficiency. It is about valuing the quiet, embodied labour that sustains our digital and material lives – an essential step toward a just, repair-ready technological future. As philosopher Michael Polanyi observed, "We know more than we can tell." By choosing to remember what cannot be digitised, we preserve the human wisdom essential to a meaningful technological future.

Another slip up by India in the trade pact with the U.K.

Biswajit Dhar

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The India-United Kingdom Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) raises several questions regarding India's commitments in the CETA's intellectual property chapter (Chapter 13). A problematic article in this chapter is Article 13.6, "Understandings Regarding TRIPS and Public Health Measures", in particular its first paragraph: "The Parties recognise the preferable and optimal route to promote and ensure access to medicines is through voluntary mechanisms, such as voluntary licensing which may include technology transfer on mutually agreed terms" (http://bit.ly/46zLEzj).

India's agreeing to this provision would result in dilution of its position on two critical issues. First, India consistently backed the use of compulsory licensing as opposed to voluntary licensing, to address high prices of patented medicines. Second, India argued that advanced countries must transfer technologies to developing countries on "favourable terms", for their industrialisation, and also for reducing their carbon footprints.

Issue of pricing

High prices of patented medicines are a serious anomaly of the patent system, due to excessive rent-seeking by patentees. Compulsory licensing of patented medicines can vastly improve the affordability of high-priced medicines by facilitating the production of such medicines. This was experienced following the grant of compulsory licence to Natco Pharma in 2012 for producing an anti-cancer medicine, sorafenib tosylate. The price came down to less than ₹8,800 for a month's treatment, from the ₹2,80,428 charged by the owner of the patent on the medicine, Bayer Corporation (http://bit.ly/4lVTc4l).

For remedying such instances of excessive rent-seeking, India's law-makers included compulsory licensing as a key safeguard while amending the Patents Act to make it compatible with the World Trade Organization's (WTO) Agreement on Trade Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS). Both Houses of the Parliament unanimously adopted this legislation after a Joint Parliamentary Committee had carefully considered its provisions (http://bit.ly/4l7Z1uh).

> There is a dilution of India's backing of the more effective compulsory licensing to address the high prices of patented medicines

Grant of compulsory licence

India's TRIPS-consistent Patents Act allows grant of compulsory licence to anyone interested in producing a patented product in India, three years after the grant of a patent. This licence can be granted if: reasonable requirements of the public with respect to the patented invention are not satisfied; or the patented invention is not available to the public at reasonably affordable price, or the patented invention is not "worked" in the territory of India, implying, it has not been commercially exploited in the country (http://bit.ly/4lTSBjI).

Patent rules monitor "working" requirement and, accordingly, patentees must submit the working status of their inventions. They had to do so annually until this requirement was diluted through India's FTA with the European Free Trade Association, with India agreeing that the periodicity of reporting "shall not be less than 3 years" (http://bit.ly/4o4NCxU). This dilution, has now been reinforced through the CETA, and it takes away an important ground for issuing compulsory licences.

By backing voluntary licensing to address the problem of access to medicines, India has, de facto, given up its position as a strong votary of compulsory licensing in the WTO. A coalition of developing countries, including India earned the right to issue compulsory licences through the Doha Declaration on the TRIPS Agreement and Public Health in 2001, despite strident opposition from advanced countries. The Declaration emphasised, "each Member has the right to grant compulsory licences and the freedom to determine the grounds upon which such licences are granted" (http://bit.ly/3IUwjiW).

Voluntary licences cannot ensure access to affordable medicines due to the weak bargaining position of domestic companies in developing countries *vis-à-vis* dominant pharmaceutical corporations. Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), a medical humanitarian organisation, observed that using the terms of voluntary licences, pharmaceutical corporations can set various limitations, including to control the supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients, besides imposing restrictions on licensees. Therefore, options for getting affordable access are compromised when voluntary licences are used (http://bit.ly/3U0j6aQ). The MSF's observations were proven when Cipla produced the anti-COVID drug, remdesivir, in India under a voluntary licence from Gilead Sciences, the owner of the patent on the medicine. The price of remdesivir fixed by Cipla for India was, in purchasing power terms, higher than that Gilead had charged in the United States.

India's demand will be affected

The CETA undermines India's demand for technology transfer "on favourable terms" in several multilateral forums. This demand was first made through the United Nations General Assembly Resolution on the New International Economic Order (NIEO) in 1974. A key aspect of the NIEO was the call for facilitated technology transfer from advanced to developing countries to promote the industrialisation efforts of the developing countries (http://bit.ly/41ejRRl). However, despite their best efforts, little progress was seen regarding technology transfer.

The disappointment of developing countries was reflected in India's Fourth Biennial Update Report to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in 2024: "Despite substantial national efforts and investments, barriers like slow international technology transfer and intellectual property rights (IPR) hinder the rapid adoption of [climate friendly] technologies" (http://bit.ly/3H1ITfU).

As India has compromised its long-held position that technology transfer to developing countries must be on "favourable terms", its demand for climate-friendly technologies from advanced countries could lose its sting.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Support, not therapy

A report, "GenAI cannot qualify as therapy for mental health, says expert" (Chennai, July 21, 2025), highlights a crucial point — while Artificial Intelligence tools such as ChatGPT may feel supportive in moments of anxiety, they cannot replace professional therapy. These tools often mirror what we wish to hear, creating comfort but not real change. The fact is that true therapy challenges patterns, provides structured guidance and builds skills to cope with life — something that no algorithm can replicate. Instead of depending on Artificial Intelligence, we must remember that healing happens through people.

Only a trained therapist can listen deeply, confront painful truths, and guide recovery with care and accountability. Let Artificial Intelligence be a temporary aid. The real work of mental health must stay firmly in human hands.

J.S. Safooraa Bharathi,
Chennai

Corrections & Clarifications

In an article, "World's highest bird death rates at Thar Desert wind farms" ('Science' page, August 3, 2025), avian death rates due to wind energy are among the highest worldwide, and not the highest.

E-mail:readerseditor@thehindu.co.in

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

On the track towards belonging

Sarabjit Arjan Singh

former general manager, Indian Railway, and former member of Central Administrative Tribunal

The completion of the the Udhampur, Srinagar, Baramulla rail link project, or the Jammu-Baramulla line, nearly four decades in the making, marks not only a historic engineering achievement in one of the most formidable terrains on the planet, but also the quiet fulfilment of a long-standing promise between the Indian state and the people of Jammu and Kashmir. Spanning 272 kilometres through the Pir Panjal and Himalayan ranges, this railway line is more than steel and concrete; it is a bridge of belonging.

Mobility equates to opportunity. The railway line connects places such as Sopore, Anantnag, Qazigund, and Banihal to the national economy. It brings markets closer, education within reach, and jobs within possibility. Each train narrows not just physical distance but also psychological gaps. This railway line fosters the sentiment that national integration is not merely about symbolism but practical access, investment, and shared development. In a region long marked by conflict, this railway line offers a quieter story – one of shared work, patience, and steady progress. It won't resolve every issue, but it shifts the conversation towards connection and common purpose.The train carries the message that Kashmir is not peripheral to India, but central to its journey forward.

Audacity and achievement

This milestone would not have been possible without the undaunted spirit of India's railway engineers. From the snow-bound tunnels of Pir Panjal to the vertiginous heights of the Chenab bridge, these professionals and workers toiled through some of the harshest natural conditions imaginable. They worked through deep winters, unpredictable landslides, and security concerns. Their courage and commitment deserve the gratitude of a nation.

The Indian Railways has a proud tradition of such resolve. In the 19th century, railway engineers built a railway through the treacherous Western Ghats and delivered the Bhor Ghat section that connects Mumbai with the Deccan. During the Assam rail-link project of 1948, when newly independent India faced a logistical crisis in connecting the Northeast, the legendary railway engineer Sardar Karnil Singh (later Chairman of the Railway Board) and his team built 200 kilometres of line in record time, including more than 300 bridges.

The Jammu-Baramulla line now joins this lineage of audacity and achievement. It is a reminder that while governments may change and priorities may shift, the railway engineer – anonymous and often unsung – continues to be one of the Republic's most enduring architects. Their work does not merely connect places; it connects lives, aspirations, and identities. It is they who transform maps into meanings and blueprints into belonging.

The symbolism of the Jammu-Baramulla line lies not only in what it connects but also in what it overcomes. The project navigated not only geotechnical obstacles and climatic extremities, but also long periods of political uncertainty and civil unrest. Each completed tunnel and bridge, therefore, is an engineering feat and also a marker of perseverance and institutional commitment in the face of adversity.

Strategic importance

The line's strategic importance is also worth underlining. By linking Kashmir's northernmost railhead with the rest of India's railway grid, it brings unparalleled logistical advantages for civilian mobility, trade, and even emergency response. The line also reduces dependence on the single Srinagar-Jammu national highway, which is vulnerable to landslides and closures during winter. In doing so, it enhances the resilience of Kashmir's connectivity and helps ensure the regular flow of essentials such as food, fuel, and medicine.

For students and patients who earlier endured long road journeys over mountainous passes, the railway offers comfort, affordability, and dignity. It reduces both the cost and the emotional toll of separation, making it easier for families to stay connected. In time, it will also make the region more attractive to investors and institutions, opening the doors for industrial parks, skill development centres, and agro-logistics hubs to be developed in and around stations such as Anantnag, Awantipora, and Baramulla.

Culturally too, the railway becomes a conduit for exchange. As trains bring people to and from the Valley, they also carry stories, memories, and understanding. The rail journey is a slow but steady social equaliser, allowing a common experience to emerge across geographies. For many in the Valley who had never travelled far beyond their districts, it opens a new window to the rest of the country – and vice versa.

The future now depends on how we build around this backbone. The completion of the Jammu-Baramulla line must be followed by careful planning of last-mile linkages, station area development, and service frequency enhancement. Local entrepreneurs, women's groups, and artisans must be enabled to benefit from the access that this line provides. Government agencies and private players must together create ecosystems around these stations, so they become not just halts, but hubs of rural transformation.

This project is a testament to what democratic development looks like in action – patient, deliberate, and deeply transformational. The tracks may be made of steel, but the promise they carry is one of trust. And that may be the most powerful foundation on which to build the future of Jammu and Kashmir.

> More than a feat of engineering, completion of the line is a reaffirmation of a social contract between the people of Kashmir and the Indian Union

A step forward, but not far enough

There are lacunae in the calculation of welfare cess in the Gig Workers Ordinance

STATE OF PLAY

Mohan Mani

While the Karnataka Platform Based Gig Workers (Social Security and Welfare) Ordinance, 2025, is a step forward towards basic social security cover, there are serious lacunae related to calculation of the welfare cess.

The welfare ordinance specifies 'payout' as the basis parameter for calculation of the welfare cess. 'Payout' is defined as the 'final payment made by the aggregator/platform to the gig worker...'. It goes on to define the 'welfare fee' as ranging from 1% and 5% of the payout per transaction to the gig worker. This formulation raises a series of issues. First, the range of 1-5% is likely to tend towards the lower bound of 1%. For instance, while the Construction Workers Welfare Cess provided for 1-2% cess, across States, the actual cess collected was 1% of construction cost.

Second, at the lower bound, this is a clear dilution of the provisions of cess under the Social Security Code of the Centre. The Code defines cess as 1-2% of turnover with a maximum cap of 5% of payment to workers. That means that a cess of 1% on turnover is the minimum. The 'payout', as defined in the Karnataka Bill, being the payment from the platform to the gig worker, is a part of and therefore less than the turnover of the platform. A cess of 1% on payout is therefore necessarily less than 1% cess on turnover of the platform and contravenes the Social Security Code.

We could test this rate of cess against the financial results of Zomato. The company had an Adjusted Revenue of

₹7,790 crore, while the 'delivery and related charges' was ₹3,900 crore (Annual Report 2024). Therefore, even a 2% cess on payout would barely equal 1% of company turnover, the minimum provision for platform cess under the Code.

The trend among food delivery platforms is towards diversification into merchandising and own production. There is every possibility that in such situations, the payout as a ratio to turnover might decline further, with even the cess rate at 2% payout being less than 1% cess on turnover. From Zomato's example, we can calculate that at 5% cess on the payout, the additional cost to be borne by the customer on a purchase value of ₹100 is barely around 50 paise. Surely the customer would not grudge this additional cost for social security cover to the platform worker. The employer contribution from Zomato at this cess rate would still be less than a third of what garment manufacturers in the State contribute towards Employees' State Insurance and Employees' Provident Fund cover per worker.

There is a further issue related to the ride-hail sector of platform work. With the entry of Namma Yatri in Bengaluru, the operations for the sector for autorickshaws has moved from a 'commission' model to a 'subscription' model. In essence, Namma Yatri does not charge a commission on its rides, passing on the entire payment by customers to the driver. Instead, the driver pays a fixed subscription to Namma Yatri that allows her/him to be onboarded with the platform for a fixed duration. This benefits the driver, as the per ride subscription cost generally works out much less than the per ride commission. Uber and Ola have followed this model introduced by Namma Yatri, for autorickshaw operations in Bengaluru. The payout in this model from the platform to the driver is zero. How will the Bill account for this? Will this mean that platform-based autorickshaw drivers will be excluded from it?

A possible workaround could be that for all platform operations following a subscription model, the cess payment could be built into the customer fee, charging, say, 2% of the full transaction amount. The financial portal for this model of platform work could be designed to transfer the cess amount of each transaction to the Payment and Welfare Fee Verification System that forms part of the Bill. The quantum of payment at 2% is not so much as to inconvenience the customers taking a ride on these autorickshaws. The platforms in this case are unlikely to object, as they are merely called on to serve as intermediaries for the cess transaction.

The platform sector is complex and a one-size-fits-all approach will only end in chaos. Cess rates will need to be calibrated to fit the average employment conditions in each sector, ensuring that some minimum standards of social security can be guaranteed.

Mohan Mani, Visiting Fellow, National Law School of India University, Bengaluru

How does the World Bank classify countries by income?

The World Bank's income groups are widely used in global data. This article explains how they are defined and updated

DATA POINT

Bertha Rohenkohl
Pablo Arriagada

When people talk about countries as 'rich' or 'poor', they can mean many different things. But for researchers and policymakers, it helps to have a way to compare countries by income using clear criteria. One widely used approach is the World Bank's income classification system, which places countries into four groups: low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income countries.

Every year, the World Bank assigns each country to an income group based on its gross national income (GNI) per capita. GNI per capita is a measure of the average income of a country's residents, including income that is earned abroad. Since countries report GNI in their local currencies, the World Bank converts these figures into U.S. dollars using exchange rates. It then places countries in one of four income groups based on specific thresholds. **Maps 1** and **2** show how countries were classified by income in 2014 and 2024.

The income thresholds that separate groups were first set in the late 1980s when this classification system was introduced. At that time, these were aligned with the World Bank's policies for lending money to countries. The Bank used average incomes to determine which countries were eligible for concessional loans.

This threshold for receiving such loans became the boundary between low-income and middle-income countries. The Bank then added two more thresholds to allow for further distinctions. These were chosen based on the distribution of country incomes at the time, rather than on lending rules.

Today, the thresholds are no longer linked to the Bank's operations, but they have been updated yearly to account for inflation. This adjustment is based on a measure of global inflation.

This means that the classification is *absolute*. Countries are put into groups according to predetermined thresholds, and a country's placement depends only on its GNI per capita, not on how it stacks up relative to other countries. The thresholds for the latest income groups are (in U.S. dollars): low income: $1,135 or less; lower-middle income: $1,136 to $4,495; upper-middle income: $4,496 to $13,935; high income: More than $13,935.

If a country's GNI per capita crosses a threshold, it moves into a new income group in the following update. Because GNI per capita changes over time, and thresholds are revised annually, countries can move between income groups over time. These movements may reflect real changes in income, shifts in exchange rates, or updates to population data.

In the long run, most countries have moved up the income ladder as their economies have grown. However, countries can also move down – and some have, particularly in periods of war and economic crisis. Two examples are Syria and Yemen, which went from low-middle income to low income in 2017.

When we hear that there are four income groups, we might imagine that the world's population is evenly divided across them, with around 25% of people living in each. But this isn't the case. Again, these groups are defined based on *absolute* thresholds, not relative cut-offs that change based on other countries' progress.

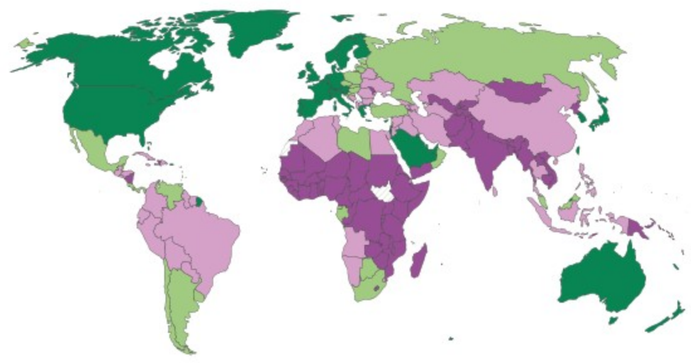
In 2004, 37% of the population lived in low-income countries. Today, that share has fallen to less than 10%. In the same period, the share of upper-middle income countries increased from less than 10% to 35%. You can see this change in **Charts 3, 4 and 5**.

Bertha Rohenkohl is Research and Data Economics Lead and Pablo Arriagada is Data Scientist at Our World in Data

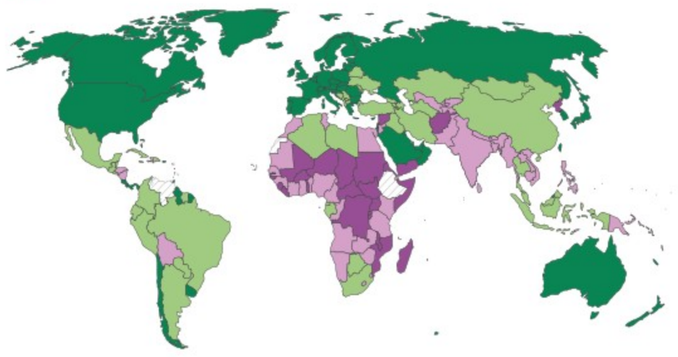
Income thresholds

The data for the charts were sourced from Our World in Data's story titled "How does the World Bank classify countries by income?"

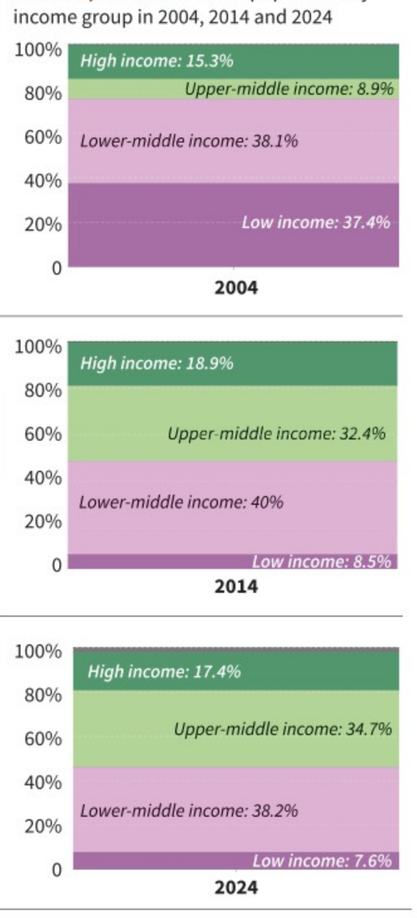
Map 1: Countries classified by income in 2014



Map 2: Countries classified by income in 2024



Charts 3, 4 and 5: Share of population by income group in 2004, 2014 and 2024



FROM THE ARCHIVES

The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1975

NASA invites India to join space shuttle experiment

Ahmedabad, Aug. 3: The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has invited India to propose an experiment that could be placed in the space shuttle, scheduled to become operative in 1980. An Indian scientist can accompany the experiment in the space shuttle also, said Mr. Arnold Frutkin, Assistant Administrator for International Affairs, NASA, in an interview to a local daily here. Mr. Frutkin, who played a leading role in India's Satellite Instructional Television Experiment was here to watch its inauguration on August 1. He said the European countries participating in the research project aboard the shuttle might send a scientist. The space shuttle was the next major project of NASA after the Apollo programme had ended, he added. "It is less costly ($12 billions) but is expected to be a major milestone in space travel as it will try the concept of reusable booster," he said. Mr. Frutkin said the cargo bay of the shuttle would be 60 feet long and 15 feet wide. The space shuttle, well past the design stage, would also carry an entire laboratory and change the way "you do business in space. It will make space travel cheaper," he added. Mr. Frutkin said the costs were bound to go down if the same booster could be used over and over again.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO AUGUST 4, 1925

New design for five rupee notes

Within the next few months, most probably in November, newly designed five-rupee notes will be issued from the Paper Currency Office. These notes are already being stocked in the strong-room in the office, and it is understood that they will take the place of the old five-rupee ones. The notes, which are printed in light rainbow colour, are in size a little smaller than the present ten-rupee notes. The most striking difference between these new notes and notes of other denominations is that the initial in the new ones is in the middle of the paper instead of being at the bottom. The back of the paper is also lightly coloured, and the numbers are put very close to each other. Enquiries in the Calcutta Paper Currency Office showed that some months back a large number of forged notes, especially the five-rupee ones, were in circulation.

From Page One

EC asks Tejashwi to give voter ID card for probe

Mr. Yadav said on Saturday that he voted in the Lok Sabha election in 2024 using an EPIC with number RAB2916120, which is now missing from the draft rolls. The EC, however, furnished the extract of draft rolls showing Mr. Yadav's name against the EPIC number RAB0456228.

"It is to be informed that in the press conference, you told that your name is not mentioned in the draft voter list. After investigation, it was found that your name is mentioned at serial number 416 of polling station number 204 (Library Building of Bihar Animal Science University), whose EPIC number is RAB0456228," the ERO said in his letter.

Mr. Yadav is a voter in the Digha Assembly constituency, but represents the Raghopur seat as an MLA.

At his press conference, Mr. Yadav had filled in RAB2916120 as his EPIC number on the EC's official website and entered the captcha in front of the assembled presspersons, showing them that his number was missing. Mr. Yadav had then alleged that the EC was working as a cell of the BJP, and asked it how he would contest the upcoming Assembly election when his name was not even showing in the draft voter list.

The commission said that as of 3 p.m. on Sunday, no political party in Bihar had yet approached it with a request to include names on the draft rolls or remove them. However, the EC has received 941 such claims and objections from individual voters.

Army officer booked for assaulting airline staff

The airline said: "The passenger grievously assaulted our staff members with punches, repeated kicks, and even used a queue stand as a weapon." It said one employee collapsed after falling unconscious but was continuously kicked. "Another suffered serious facial injuries, including a fractured jaw, after being struck while assisting his colleague," it added.

The airline said its ground staff sustained a spinal fracture, and jaw and facial injuries in the violent attack. Medical teams attended to the injured immediately and shifted them to hospital for specialised treatment, they said.

The CCTV footage shows the Army officer violently attacking the airline's employees.

SpiceJet has written to the Civil Aviation Ministry, seeking action over the "murderous assault". The airline's statement added: "We strongly condemn any act of violence against our employees and will pursue this matter to its fullest legal and regulatory conclusion," the statement said. The airline has also started the process of placing the passenger on the no-fly list in accordance with DGCA norms.

'Bio-fortified potatoes to hit Indian market soon'

Dr. Heck said India has the strongest momentum for potato production and farmers wanted better varieties of potato that grew well with fewer agrochemical input and they also wanted to be part of the market chain, including food processing. He expressed hope that the centre will help farmers access better quality seeds and provide them better exposure to markets.

The CIP believes that the location chosen for the new centre near Agra, in the heart of the potato belt of India, is ideal as the Indo-Gangetic plains is the largest potato-producing area in the world.

Dr. Heck said the Uttar Pradesh government had made available the land and handed it over to the National Horticulture Board, which invited the CIP to establish the centre. The agreement between the CIP and the Union Agriculture Ministry, signed in the last week of July, was set up following the demand from the Government of India in recognition of the potential for economic growth from the thriving potato sector.

"It may be noted that international companies, especially potato firms from Europe and North America, are increasingly investing in potato production in India," he said.

Part of market chain

"What they [farmers] needed is access to potato seed of the right quality, of the right variety, and at the right time of the year. There are constraints. They do not have enough potato seeds or they come too late for planting or they are not of good quality. We need to build the capacity for companies to multiply potato seeds. That will be a major contribution of the CIP," he said. The CIP was working with private companies and public research institutes to make sure that farmers throughout India would have access to good quality planting material, right from the initial breeding of new varieties, through multiplication every year, in the right locations.

He said the CIP would also ensure that the vulnerable parts of society had access to nutritious potato. There were number of opportunities along the road; one was to work with the government, with public sector food procurement, for school feeding programmes, such as mid-day meals. This would give children access to nutritious potato through the programmes, more specifically and consistently, he said. Another one was to breed potato that was more nutritious, he added.

BJP slams NCP(SP) MLA's Sanatana Dharma remarks

After Awhad terms the ideology historically oppressive, calling those opposed to social reformers 'Sanatana terrorists', BJP leader says Sharad Pawar must clarify whether this is his party's stance

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

There was never any religion called Sanatana Dharma. We are followers of Hindu Dharma
JITENDRA AWHAD, NCP (SP) MLA

Mr. Awhad has insulted truth, opposed Shiva, and spoken against the beauty that embraces respect for all
SAMBIT PATRA, BJP MP

Nationalist Congress Party (Sharad Pawar faction) MLA Jitendra Awhad on Sunday triggered a political storm by saying "Sanatana Dharma has ruined India". He called its ideology "perverted" and "historically oppressive".

His remarks came in the wake of the acquittal of all accused, including former BJP MP Pragya Singh Thakur, in the 2008 Malegaon blast case.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Awhad said, "There was never any religion called Sanatana Dharma. We are followers of Hindu Dharma. It was this so-called Sanatana Dharma that denied our Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj his coronation."

The BJP lashed out at Mr. Awhad and his party, with BJP MP Sambit Patra saying, "Sharad Pawar and his daughter, MP Supriya Sule, must clarify whether this is the party's official stance..."

He said that "the entire ecosystem of the Congress party repeatedly abuses Sanatana Dharma and tries to erase it".

Earlier, in a post on X, Mr. Awhad accused the proponents of Sanatana Dharma of atrocities.

'Sanatana terrorism'

"Those who forced Dr. Ambedkar to sit outside classrooms, deprived Shudras of temple entry and water, and upheld *Manusmriti* were Sanatana terrorists," he wrote. "This Sanatana terrorism pushed India into casteism and the unequal varna system. If not called Sanatana terrorists, what else should they be called?"

He said that "Sanatana terrorists" persecuted Lord Buddha, Buddhist monks, Charvaka and Basaveshwara, harassed Sant Tukaram and destroyed his Gatha, "conspired with the enemy" to plot the murder of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj and handed him over to the enemy. "Those who imposed a social boycott on Mahatma Phule, hired assassins, and attempted his murder... Those who threw cow dung at Savitribai Phule, the pioneer of women's education, for inspiring women to study were Sanatana terrorists."

'Symbols of truth'

Hitting back, Mr. Patra said that Sanatana Dharma is "associated with symbols of truth and Shiva". He said that Mr. Awhad has "insulted truth, opposed Shiva, and spoken against the beauty that embraces respect for all".

"Whether called Hindu terrorism or Sanatana terrorism, the kind of statements leaders like Prithviraj Chavan make do not happen in any other country. First, majoritarian religions are attacked and then those communities are labelled intolerant. Sanatana Dharma is tolerant and civil, which is why protests are only being registered through press conferences. If similar statements were made saying, 'Islam is different, Muslims are different', would the response be limited to just a press conference," he asked.

Ram Kadam, a BJP MLA from Maharashtra, termed Mr. Awhad's remarks "appeasement politics at its worst".

"The statement by the leader of Sharad Pawar's faction is based on an incomplete understanding of scriptures," he said.

"It has become a trend for the Opposition to criticise Sanatana Dharma. Jitendra Awhad's statement shows his lack of education, and he is responsible for caste oppression and social exclusion by making such preposterous comments," Shiv Sena leader Shaina N.C. said.

Maharashtra Minister Shambhuraj Desai, also from the Shiv Sena, said, "Sanatana Dharma stands for a distinct ideology and advocates harmony and tolerance. What Mr. Awhad said is totally wrong and unacceptable."

Malegaon blast case verdict a victory of truth: former BJP MP

The Hindu Bureau
BHOPAL

Pragya Singh Thakur

Former Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Pragya Singh Thakur, who was recently acquitted in the 2008 Malegaon blast case, said in Bhopal on Sunday that the court verdict was a "slap on the faces" of those who used terms such as "saffron terror" to describe the incident.

"*Satyameva Jayate* (truth alone triumphs), which has been said in our scriptures, has been proven. Those who used to say *bhagwa atankwad* (saffron terrorism), their faces have been blackened. The court's decision is crystal clear and it is a slap on the faces of those who called it saffron terror," Ms. Thakur, a former Lok Sabha member from Bhopal, said.

On July 31, a special National Investigation Agency (NIA) court in Mumbai acquitted all seven accused, including Ms. Thakur and Lieutenant-Colonel Prasad Shrikant Purohit, in connection with the bomb blast on September 29, 2008, in Malegaon of Maharashtra's Nashik district, which killed six people and injured about 100.

The court said the prosecution failed to prove its case, including the allegation that the motorcycle on which the bomb was allegedly strapped belonged to Ms. Thakur.

Speaking to presspersons, Ms. Thakur dubbed the court's verdict a "victory of religion and truth".

'Coerced to name Modi'

She reiterated her claims that during her time in jail, she had been "pressured and tortured" into naming several senior political and social leaders, including Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who was the Chief Minister of Gujarat at the time.

"I have said this earlier too that they forced me to take names of tall leaders. I didn't take those names. I didn't act as they wanted me to. So, they tortured me. Those names especially included Mohan Bhagwat, Ram Madhav, PM Modi, Yogi Adityanath, Indresh Kumar and other leaders," Ms. Thakur said.

The court, however, rejected her claims of torture.

Anti-terror operation in Kulgam forest continues

The Hindu Bureau
SRINAGAR

The security forces further tightened the cordon around the forest range of Akhal in Kulgam district of south Kashmir as the anti-terror operation entered its second day on Sunday.

Officials said gunfire was heard again on Sunday, suggesting that terrorists may still be holed up in the dense forested area. Security forces suspect that three or four terrorists could still be hiding at the encounter site. One unidentified terrorist was killed on Saturday, and his body was recovered, officials said.

According to official sources, a few security personnel sustained injuries in the exchange of fire. However, the Army has not confirmed any injuries to its personnel so far.

Philippines President to visit India as two sides look to deepen maritime ties

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Bilateral brief: External Affairs Minister Jaishankar with Philippine Secretary of Foreign Affairs Enrique A. Manalo in March 2025. PTI

In a move aimed at deepening maritime cooperation with the Southeast Asian region, India will host Philippines President Ferdinand Romualdez Marcos Jr. from August 4 to 8. This will be the first visit by President Marcos Jr., son of the former President Ferdinand Marcos, who visited India in 1976.

The External Affairs Ministry said the visit would formally begin with the ceremonial reception at the Rashtrapati Bhavan which would be followed by a visit by President Marcos Jr. to the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat.

Mr. Marcos Jr. will hold delegation-level talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi with the two sides signing multiple agreements and MoUs. On August 7, he will visit Bengaluru.

The visit is being viewed as the culmination of sustained political-level dialogue even as they strengthened maritime cooperation as both Philippines and India are strong proponents of freedom of navigation in the South China Sea.

Mr. Modi had met Mr. Marcos Jr. on the sidelines of 21st ASEAN-India Summit and the 19th East Asia Summit in Vientiane, Lao PDR in October 2024. They had also met on the sidelines of the 20th ASEAN-India Summit in Jakarta in September 2023. Earlier, Mr. Modi had congratulated President Marcos Jr. after his electoral victory in 2022.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had met Secretary of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines Enrique A. Manalo on March 18, 2025 when Mr. Manalo participated in the Raisina Dialogue in New Delhi. The Ministers also met in Vientiane, on July 25, 2024, on the sidelines of the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' meeting. Mr. Jaishankar had visited the Philippines from March 25-27, 2025. He met Secretary Manalo and the Secretary of National Defence of the Philippines, Teodoro Gilbert, and called on President Marcos Jr. during the visit.

The upcoming five-day visit is drawing attention as it starts soon after several Indian Navy destroyers reached the Port of Manila on August 1 to conduct joint patrol of the West Philippine Sea with the Philippine Navy. Armed Forces of Philippines Chief General Romeo Brawner Jr. told local media that the presence of the Indian destroyers was a "clear demonstration" of mutual resolve to guard the maritime domain.

NSCN(I-M) opposed to working with rival group

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The National Socialist Council of Nagalim, also called the NSCN(I-M), on Saturday said that working with the Working Committee of the Naga National Political Groups (NNPG) to find "common ground for Naga political solution" was a dangerous proposition.

The NNPG is a conglomerate of at least six Naga extremist groups opposed to the NSCN(I-M). The Centre signed the Agreed Position with the former in 2017, two years after the Framework Agreement (FA) was inked with the latter on August 3, 2015.

Q. Tuccu, the chairman of the NSCN(I-M), said the significance of the "historic" FA lies in the Centre's recognition of the sovereign rights of the Nagas.

Mr. Tuccu said the Nagas should accept their bounden duty to defend the sanctity of the FA at any cost.

"This FA symbolically acknowledged the existence of the Naga nation as testified by the recognition of the unique history of the Nagas by the Government of India on July 11, 2002, during the Indo-Naga political talks," he said in a speech marking the 10th anniversary of the FA.

Division within

The NSCN(I-M) chairman said the Nagas were at a crossroads today due to divisive politics within. Calling for unity and reconciliation to achieve the common goal, he, however, said working with the NNPG was a dangerous proposition.

He claimed that the NNPG was created by the Government of India to counterweight the bona fide leadership of the NSCN (I-M) and signed the "deceitful" Agreed Position with them.

Central nod to increase CISF strength, 58,000 personnel to be recruited over next five years

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Gaining strength: CISF official says about 14,000 personnel will be recruited per year over the next five years. REUTERS

The Union Home Ministry has approved the recruitment of 58,000 additional personnel for the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), anticipating future industrial hubs in areas now affected by Left-wing extremism (LWE).

Home Minister Amit Shah has set March 2026 as deadline for the security forces to end Maoist activities in Chhattisgarh, one of the worst-affected States.

The geographical spread of LWE violence has reduced substantially in the past decade. The number of districts affected in 2013 stood at 126 in 10 States, which had fallen to 38 in 2024.

On July 22, the Ministry wrote to inform CISF Director-General R.S. Bhatti that the President had sanctioned an enhancement in the force's authorised ceiling strength, from 2 lakh to 2.2 lakh. As the present strength of the CISF is 1.62 lakh, the decision could lead to the recruitment of around 58,000 people.

A CISF official said that around 14,000 personnel will be recruited each year over the next five years. The official said that the new additions would help in the CISF's deployment across critical sectors such as aviation, sea ports, thermal power plants, nuclear installations, hydro power plants, and jails in Jammu and Kashmir.

New industrial hubs

"With the decline of Left-wing extremism in States such as Chhattisgarh, new industrial hubs are anticipated to emerge, necessitating a stronger CISF presence to provide comprehensive and effective security to these units," the official said.

The CISF recruited 13,230 personnel in 2024, and the recruitment of another 24,098 is underway during the current year.

Post-Operation Sindoor, there has been an increase in requests by several organisations for CISF security cover. "Around 35 requests are under process and requests from around 100 installations are pending, " the official said.

In the past year, the CISF has been deployed at seven new locations: the Parliament House complex, Ayodhya airport, the National Thermal Power Corporation's coal mining project in Hazaribagh, the Indian Council of Medical Research-National Institute of Virology in Pune, the Buxar thermal power project, the Jawahar thermal power project in Etah; and the Beas Satluj Link project in Mandi.

INDIA bloc to meet on Thursday to chalk out strategy against SIR

In first in-person meet of the bloc since June 1, 2024, Rahul to host dinner for leaders at his Delhi residence; they will take out a joint protest march to the EC headquarters the following day; Opposition to press again for a debate in Parliament

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Coming together: Apart from Parliament floor strategy meetings, the last time the INDIA bloc leaders sat across the table for a discussion was on June 1, 2024. PTI

United in their opposition to the special intensive revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar, INDIA bloc partners will meet outside Parliament for the first time in 14 months on Thursday, at the Delhi residence of Rahul Gandhi, the Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha.

Excluding Parliament floor strategy meetings, the last time the INDIA bloc leaders sat across the table was on June 1, 2024, just three days before the results of the Lok Sabha election were declared, at the residence of Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge.

On July 19, 2024, the bloc had a virtual meeting on the results.

Thursday's dinner meeting will be followed the next day by a joint protest march to the Election Commission's headquarters here.

The SIR has acted as a glue to bring the bloc back together after a tumultuous year of speaking out in separate, and sometimes contradictory, voices.

'SIR affects all citizens'

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav emphasised the importance of protesting against the SIR together. "We can protect the temple of democracy [Parliament] only if we can enter it," he said.

Terming the SIR a systematic method to blunt the Opposition's strength, he said it was essential that the exercise be opposed every step of the way.

Manoj K. Jha, Rajya Sabha member from the Rashtriya Janata Dal, said that the INDIA bloc was primarily constituted for elections, and while it was a strong idea, it would be wrong to assume that the members had to consult each other 24x7.

"Instead of special intensive revision, this exercise by the EC should be called 'special intensive deletion'. This is an issue that affects every citizen of the country; thus, it is imperative for the INDIA bloc to stand by the country," Mr. Jha said.

The top leadership of a majority of the INDIA bloc partners are expected at the dinner at Mr. Gandhi's residence and the protest march the following day. The Aam Aadmi Party, which has declared that it is not part of the bloc any more, is likely to skip both events, but will continue to support the agitation against the SIR inside Parliament.

The Opposition is going to press again for a debate on the issue in Parliament at the meeting of the Business Advisory Committees of both Houses, which usually has to be held at the beginning of the week.

"The SIR 'vote *chori*' as a subject can easily be discussed in both Houses. BJP is scared. Next week, we will give the shaky Modi coalition a tutorial in Parliament and teach them how it can be discussed," Trinamool Congress leader Derek O'Brien said.

The government invoked a precedent from the tenure of the Lok Sabha's longest serving Speaker, Balram Jakhar, who had ruled that the Election Commission, a Constitutional body, cannot be discussed in Parliament.

"This is a facetious argument. We are not asking for a discussion on the Election Commission, we are demanding a debate on an administrative decision taken by the poll panel, which right now is underway in Bihar, and will be carried out across the country," the Congress whip in the Lok Sabha, Manickam Tagore, said.

NDA calls for legal action against Tejashwi Yadav for 'holding two voter ID cards'

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA/NEW DELHI

EC and the Patna District Magistrate put the 'whole truth forward as it is', says party leader

The ruling National Democratic Alliance (NDA) on Sunday urged the Election Commission (EC) to take cognisance of the two voter ID cards allegedly possessed by the Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) leader and Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly, Tejashwi Yadav, and file a case against him.

BJP spokesperson Ajay Alok; Janata Dal(U) chief spokesperson Neeraj Kumar; Lok Janshakti Party-Ram Vilas (LJP-RV) leader Rajesh Bhatt; Hindustani Awam Morcha-Secular (HAM-S) leader Shyam Sundar; and Rashtriya Lok Morcha (RLM) spokesperson Nitin Bharti, apart from the BJP's media incharge Danish Iqbal, raised the issue at a press conference in Patna.

Addressing presspersons at the BJP headquarters in Delhi, party MP and spokesperson Sambit Patra said the elector photo identity card (EPIC) number cited by Mr. Yadav at a press conference on Saturday to allege that his name was missing from the draft voters' list was different from the one referred to by the EC to refute his claim. Mr. Patra said the EPIC number given by the RJD leader was not the one he had submitted in his 2020 election affidavit, according to the EC's records.

'Exposed his lies'

Mr. Patra said the commission and the Patna District Magistrate had exposed Mr. Yadav's "lies" and put the "whole truth forward as it is" by stating that his name was enrolled in the voters' list of the Digha Assembly constituency.

"That EPIC number is the same that he [Mr. Yadav] had mentioned in his nomination affidavit of 2020... did you give a wrong affidavit? Did you [Mr. Yadav] file a wrong nomination paper? Did you file under oath during filing nomination?" Mr. Patra said.

If the RJD leader's claim was correct, it meant that he held two EPIC numbers, and that amounted to an offence, he said.

"Did Mr. Yadav have two voter ID cards? If the supreme leader of a party has two EPICs, what would be the condition of its workers? Is this why they are afraid of SIR [special intensive revision]?" Mr. Patra said, accusing the RJD and the Congress of indulging in unfair means to win elections.

'Part of conspiracy'

"Over the past few years, we have witnessed that the Opposition, particularly the Congress and RJD, have been deliberately targeting Constitutional institutions without any basis as part of a conspiracy to lower Bharat's stature," he said.

"Rahul Gandhi was claiming that that he would explode an 'atom bomb' and perhaps this was his atom bomb... like that of Pakistan. Indian democracy is neither afraid of the threat of atom bomb from Pakistan nor from Rahul Gandhi," the senior BJP leader said.

The BJP leader termed the SIR a Constitutional process being implemented in a "precise and non-escalatory" manner.

Modi and Shah meet President separately

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Sunday called on President Droupadi Murmu separately within hours of each other at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The reasons for the meetings were not known.

"Prime Minister Shri @narendramodi called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan," the Rashtrapati Bhavan said on 'X'.

Hours later, the Rashtrapati Bhavan again wrote on 'X', "Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah called on President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan."

This was the first meeting of the Prime Minister with the President after his recent trips to the United Kingdom and the neighbouring Maldives.

Govt. may push for passage of key sports Bill in LS amid deadlock over debate on SIR

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Opposition MPs protesting in the Well as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla conducts the proceedings in the House. SANSAD TV/PTI

The government is likely to push for the passage of a key sports Bill in the Lok Sabha on Monday, amid a deadlock in Parliament over the Opposition demand for a discussion on the special intensive revision of the electoral rolls in poll-bound Bihar, which the government has refused to accede to.

The Lower House has listed the National Sports Governance Bill, which envisages greater transparency in the functioning of sports bodies, for consideration and passage.

Resolution in RS

The Rajya Sabha has listed for passage on Monday a resolution from Union Home Minister Amit Shah on the extension of President's Rule in Manipur by another six months with effect from August 13.

Other than a two-day discussion on the Pahalgam terror attack and Operation Sindoor in both the Houses, no significant business was transacted so far in the Monsoon Session of Parliament. Rajya Sabha Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar's resignation on the very first day of the session added to the chaos.

Government sources, however, claim that if the Opposition does not pause its protests, it will get the National Sports Governance Bill passed in the din. Another Bill listed for consideration and passage in the Lok Sabha is the National Anti-Doping (Amendment) Bill.

The government's legislative agenda include the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024, the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 and the Indian Ports Bill, 2025.

EC's neutrality under a cloud; debate must: Cong. leader

Press Trust of India
GUWAHATI

Senior Congress leader Gaurav Gogoi on Sunday alleged that the neutrality of the Election Commission is questionable, which is why the Opposition parties want a discussion on the revision of the voter list in Parliament.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Gogoi, who is also the deputy leader of the party in the Lok Sabha, questioned the Centre's decision not to allow a discussion on the EC even though the Chief Election Commissioner is appointed by it. "Today, there is a question mark in the minds of the people regarding the neutrality of the EC. That is why we want a discussion in Parliament. The government is trying to hide something. What is it? Is it their manipulation in the last Assembly polls and Lok Sabha election," he asked.

Ahead of election, senior Cong. leader Ashok Kumar joins JD(U)

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Ahead of the Assembly election in Bihar, State Congress leader Ashok Kumar (Ram) on Sunday joined the ruling party Janata Dal(U), alleging that the Opposition party has no "respect for Dalits".

Mr. Ashok, who has been a six-time MLA and Legislature Party leader of the Congress, quit the Congress ahead of party leader Rahul Gandhi's likely visit to the poll-bound State for a *padyatra* (foot march) in 18 districts from August 10.

While joining the JD(U) at a *Milan Samaroh* in Patna, Mr. Ashok alleged that the "Congress has no respect for Dalits and the party has remained as only a B-team of the Rashtriya Janata Dal."

Mr. Ashok also said he was "impressed" with Chief Minister Nitish Kumar's work for the Dalits and poor people.

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
DEPARTMENT OF SURVEY AND SETTLEMENT
E-TENDER NOTICE

Online tenders are invited as per the requirements specified in the tender documents floated in the portal at **https://tntenders.gov.in** for the **supply of unskilled manpower for being engaged as Field Assistants on contract basis for 11 months** in the **TRICHY REGION** of the Department of Survey and Settlement.
The tender document can be downloaded at free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in /** from **04.08.2025.** The details of the tender are as follows.

Tender Ref. No.	R2/17427/2025
Pre-bid meeting	18.08.2025 at 11.30 AM
EMD	Rs.3.50 lakh
Date of Release of Tender	04.08.2025
Last date for submission of bid	02.09.2025 at 3.00 PM
Date of Opening of bid	03.09.2025 at 3.00 PM

Additional Director of Survey and Land Records, (General), Chennai- 600 005.
(Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/ 4026 /TENDER/2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
INVITATION FOR TENDER (Only through KPP portal)
BWSSB invites TENDERS in Two Stage Tender System from registered agencies for the following works.
Office of the Chief Engineer (Design & QA), 9th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bangalore-09

Sl. No.	Name of the Works	Amount put to Tender / EMD Amount
IFT No.: BWSSB/CE(D&QA)/ACE/TA/1300/2025-26		Date: 02.08.2025
1	Work of Repair and rehabilitation of non-working RO plants coming under AEE(B W & PS)2-3 sub-division **(78 Nos.).**	Rs. 3,24,48,000/- / Rs. 5,74,400/-
2	Work of Repair and rehabilitation of non-working RO plants coming under AEE(B W & PS)1-3 sub-division **(24 Nos.).**	Rs. 99,84,000/- / Rs. 1,76,800/-
3	Work of Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE (BW&PS)-2-3 sub-division **(O&M-2 : Total No. 52)**	Rs. 2,43,36,000/- / Rs. 3,65,100/-
4	Work of Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE (BW&PS)-2-3 sub-division **(O&M-3 : Total No. 65)**	Rs. 3,04,20,000/- / Rs. 4,56,300/-
5	Work of Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE (BW&PS)-2-1 sub-division **(O&M-1 : Total No. 60)**	Rs. 2,80,80,000/- / Rs. 4,21,200/-
6	Work of Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE (BW&PS)-1-3 sub-division **(O&M-2 : Total No. 51)**	Rs. 2,38,68,000/- / Rs. 3,58,100/-
7	Work of Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE (BW&PS)-1-2 sub-division **(O&M-3 : Total No. 56)**	Rs. 2,62,08,000/- / Rs. 3,93,200/-
8	Work of Comprehensive operation and maintenance of RO plants based on the revenue sharing method coming under AEE (BW&PS)-1-2 sub-division **(O&M-4 : Total No. 59)**	Rs. 2,76,12,000/- / Rs. 4,14,500/-

The Last date and time for receipt of completed tenders will be on **22.08.2025 upto 16:00 hrs.** The Technical bids will be opened on **25.08.2025 at 16:00 hrs.**

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (Design & QA)

The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-Procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.
DIPR/CP/YC/2174/2025-26

Silent rally held in Kolhapur seeking return of elephant

Purnima Sah
MUMBAI

People taking out a silent march in Kolhapur on Sunday seeking the return of a 36-year-old elephant, Mahadevi. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Kolhapur witnessed a massive turnout on Sunday as thousands walked in a silent protest, urging authorities to the bring back the 36-year-old elephant Mahadevi, also known as Madhuri, from the NGO Vantara's wildlife rehabilitation facility in Jamnagar, Gujarat.

Vantara is the brainchild of Anant Ambani, son of industrialist Mukesh Ambani, and is supported by Reliance Industries Ltd. and Reliance Foundation.

The march, led by former Swabhimani Kisan Sangathan chief Raju Shetty, began at 5 a.m. from Nandani, and concluded at 5.45 p.m. at the Kolhapur District Collectorate, where a formal appeal was submitted. "We covered 45 km today. Over 30,000 people had gathered from Kolhpaur, Sangli and Satara. We plan to carry out similar protests in north Karnataka, especially since it's a border region and several temples there have elephants," Mr. Shetty said.

In a statement to *The Hindu*, Vantara said: "The transfer has since been carried out by the authorities, and Vantara has merely complied with the court's directions. The promoter family, who support Vantara philanthropically, have no involvement in its daily operations and were not party to the proceedings at any stage."

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CIN: U40109WB2007SGC113473, www.wbsedcl.in
WBSEDCL
Request for Proposal
e-Tender-cum-e-Reverse Auction No.: **WBSEDCL/PT&P/e-NIT/04 (RPO)/2025** Dt.: **04.08.2025** is invited by the Chief Engineer (PT&P), WBSEDCL, Vidyut Bhavan, Bidhannagar, Kolkata-700091 for purchase of power from renewable sources for meeting RPO (non-solar) from **15th August, 2025** to **31st October, 2025,** through Traders/Licensees/Bidders. Interested parties may download the tender documents from the website ***https://www.mstcecommerce.com*** directly with the help of Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from **11:00 hrs.** of **04.08.2025** and submit the same on or before **17:00 hrs.** of **08.08.2025**.
For details, visit **www.wbsedcl.in**
ICA- T16512(3)/2025

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD
Office of the Engineer-In-Chief
2nd Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, K.G. Road, Bengaluru - 560009
IFT No: BWSSB/EIC/ACE(UFW)/TA/2547/2025-26 Dated: 01.08.2025
INVITATION FOR TENDER
(only through KPP Portal)
BWSSB invites Tenders in Two Stage Tender System from eligible Contractors for Work of Rehabilitation and Repair Work to Old GLR 2 MG (9 ML) Capacity under K G Tower Service Station of AEE(NE-2) Sub Division Office.
Amount Put to Tender: ₹ 400.48 Lakhs, EMD : ₹ 6.0 Lakhs
Last date for submission of Completed Tender documents on **18.08.2025** upto **15:00** Hrs. Tenders will be opened on **19.08.2025** at **16:00** Hrs. The details regarding the tender and participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the undersigned office during working hours.
Sd/-
Engineer-in-Chief
DIPR/SI/2159/2025-26

INBRIEF

Doctors' strike at Patna AIIMS against MLA enters third day

Resident doctors at All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Patna, continued their strike against the alleged high-handedness of Sheohar MLA Chetan Anand, for the third consecutive day on Sunday. Members of the Resident Doctors Association called a general body meeting on Sunday to discuss their future course of action. An RDA team had met senior officials of the hospital on Saturday as efforts are being on to break the logjam. According to the RDA, the MLA forcibly entered the hospital and assaulted doctors. Mr. Anand has said he and his wife were mistreated by hospital staffers. Both sides have filed FIRs in connection with the incident. PTI

ED arrests former Axis MF fund manager in PMLA case

Viresh Joshi, a former chief trader and fund manager of Axis Mutual Fund, has been arrested under the anti-money laundering law in a case linked to alleged cheating of investors to the tune of ₹200 crore, the Enforcement Directorate (ED) said on Sunday. A special Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) court sent Mr. Joshi, who was taken into custody on Saturday, to ED custody till August 8, the ED said. The money laundering case stems from an FIR by the Mumbai Police in December 2024, alleging that Mr. Joshi "exploited" confidential information on the trades to be executed on behalf of Axis Mutual Fund to pre-emptively trade stocks, generating substantial "illicit" gains. PTI

140 people of PVTGs, Nicobari tribe to join Andaman Police

A total of 140 people from Nicobari tribe and Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs) will join the Andaman and Nicobar Police as part of their gradual integration in Port Blair, a senior officer said. "The PVTGs, which include Onge, Great Andamanese, Nicobari, will join as Home Guard Volunteers," the officer said. Director General of Police, Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Hargobinder Singh Dhaliwal said, "A total of 132 Nicobari candidates, including 41 females, three Great Andamanese, including one female and five Onge, are now part of our police family." Integration is also noticed among other PVTGs such as Shompens and Jarawas (Ang). PTI

Puri girl's death: Opposition parties allege police inaction

Opposition parties intensified their criticism of the Mohan Majhi-led Odisha government, rejecting the police's claim that no one was involved in the incident in which a 15-year-old girl from Puri district died of burns allegedly inflicted by miscreants. Following a post-mortem at the AIIMS, New Delhi, the girl's body was being brought to her native village for burial. Alleging police inaction, both the Congress and the Biju Janata Dal accused the government of failing to carry out a fair probe. The Congress reiterated its demand for arrests and threatened to gherao DGP office if no action was taken in seven days.

11 killed, four injured as SUV falls into Uttar Pradesh canal

The victims were *en route* to Prithvinath temple in Gonda district when the incident took place; most of the dead were from same family; PM, CM condole deaths, announce financial assistance

Mayank Kumar
LUCKNOW

Eleven people, three of them children, were killed and four injured after a sports utility vehicle (SUV) carrying pilgrims plunged into the Saryu canal in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. Most of the victims were from one family.

The pilgrims were *en route* to the Prithvinath Temple in the district when the driver is said to have lost control of the vehicle, causing it to veer off the road and fall into the canal in the jurisdiction of the Itiya Thok police station.

The deceased were identified as Bina, Durgesh, Mahak Nandini, Kajal, Ankit, Shubh, Sanju Verma, Anju, Anusuya, and Saumiya. Senior district officials reached the site immediately. The injured were taken out of the vehicle and admitted to hospital.

Tragedy site: Rescue personnel at the accident spot in Gonda district of Uttar Pradesh on Sunday. PTI

Ex-gratia announced

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed grief over the incident.

"Deeply saddened by the loss of lives due to an accident in Gonda, Uttar Pradesh. Condolences to those who have lost their loved ones in the mishap. May the injured recover soon. An ex-gratia of ₹2 lakh from PMNRF would be given to the next of kin of each deceased. The injured would be given ₹50,000," he posted on X.

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath also announced assistance of ₹5 lakh to the families of the deceased.

"The loss of life in the unfortunate accident in Gonda district is extremely sad and heart-wrenching. My condolences are with the bereaved families. Instructions have been given to provide financial assistance of ₹5 lakh each to the families of those who died in this accident, and to the district administration officials to immediately take the injured to the hospital and provide them proper treatment," the Chief Minister posted on X.

"I pray to Lord Shri Ram to grant salvation to the departed souls, strength to the bereaved families to bear this immense loss and speedy recovery to the injured. *Om shanti*," he said.

'Stop selling China mega dam bogey to push Siang project'

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

The ₹1.13-lakh-crore project is expected to submerge 27 villages, displace over 1.5 lakh members of Adi tribe

Activists and farmers in Arunachal Pradesh have urged the Union government not to invoke China's planned hydropower project on the Yarlung Tsangpo in Tibet to push ahead with the proposed 11,500-megawatt Siang Upper Multipurpose Project (SUMP) on the Siang river.

The Yarlung Tsangpo is the upper stream of the Siang, which flows into Arunachal Pradesh and later meets two other rivers in Assam to form the Brahmaputra.

The Medog Hydropower Station in Tibet, being pursued by China, is expected to generate 60,000 MW of electricity. While Beijing claims it is a clean energy initiative, both India and Bangladesh have expressed concerns about the downstream impact of the project.

"Instead of creating fear over the Medog project, the Government of India should consult with its Chinese counterpart to get an accurate status of the project before pushing the SUMP through," Ebo Mili, a lawyer and anti-dam activist from Arunachal Pradesh's Dibang Valley, said while addressing the press in New Delhi on Saturday.

The press conference was organised by the Siang Indigenous Farmers' Forum (SIFF), their legal advisors, and anti-dam activists from Uttarakhand.

The SUMP is expected to submerge 27 villages and displace over 1.5 lakh members of the Adi tribe, in addition to impacting forest cover, farmland, and sites of cultural importance. Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu has defended the project as a "defensive measure" against potential threats from the Medog project, which he termed a ticking "time bomb".

However, SIFF president Lamok Padun alleged that local village chiefs were being coerced into signing agreements for the pre-feasibility report (PFR) through pressure tactics.

SIFF's legal adviser Bhanu Tatak alleged that the Union and State governments were militarising the Siang region to curb mobilisation.

"The government is resorting to violent means to gag us," she said.

Summit on Tamil Nadu's real estate transformation tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Hindu Group will host *The Hindu* Tamil Nadu Real Estate Summit 2025 in Chennai on Tuesday. The event is presented by Casagrand and co-presented by GSquare.

This summit is a platform for voices from different sectors, including those from the government, energy, real estate, sports, and finance to come together and discuss Tamil Nadu's urban growth and real estate transformation.

Shiv Das Meena, Chairperson, Tamil Nadu Real Estate Regulatory Authority, will be the chief guest.

In the session "Fireside Chat: Vision for Tamil Nadu's Real Estate Growth", Arun M.N., founder, chairman and managing director, Casagrand, will be the speaker, and the moderator will be Rosella Stephen R., senior associate editor, *The Hindu*.

The session "Tamil Nadu @ $1 Trillion: Role of Real Estate in Urban Transformation" will have speakers, including W.S. Habib, president, CREDAI Tamil Nadu; Jerry Kingsley, head of Value and Risk Advisory in India and City Capital Markets, Chennai JLL; Julian Francis, senior vice-president, Asset Management, Chennai, and head of Industrial and Logistics at RMZ; Sripriya Ganesan, co-founder, Studio Neon; and C.G. Sathish, deputy managing director, Casagrand. Kunal Shankar, deputy business editor, *The Hindu*, will be the moderator for the event.

In the session "Navigating the Future of Real Estate in Tamil Nadu", the speaker is Bala Ramajeyam, managing director, GSquare Housing, and the moderator is Sangeetha Kandavel, senior assistant editor, *The Hindu*.

The session "Policy to Prosperity: RERA, Ease of Doing Business & Regulatory Outlook" will have speakers, including Sanjay Chugh, city head and director, ANAROCK Property Consultants Pvt. Ltd., Chennai; Sriram Swaminathan, chairman, Sabari and LYRA Properties Pvt. Ltd., executive committee member, CREDAI National; and Jayaprakash Padmanaban, senior partner, Fox Mandal & Associates. This session will be moderated by Kunal Shankar.

There will be a discussion on "Affordable Housing: Bridging the Urban Housing Gap". The speakers are: A. Srivathsan, Professor and head of the Centre for Research on Architecture and Urbanism at CEPT University; Vanessa Peter, founder, Information and Resource Centre for the Deprived Urban Communities; R.V. Shekar, chairman and managing director, Lancor Group; and P. Suresh, managing director, Arun Excello Group. R. Sujatha, former deputy editor, *The Hindu*, will be the moderator.

A session will be held on "Green is Gold: Sustainable Construction & Energy-Efficient Buildings" and the speakers are C. Velan, CEO, CEEBROS Group; Sumitra Vasudevan, associate partner, APROBuild; Ajit Kumar Chordia, managing director, Olympia Group, India; and Nataraj S, senior assistant vice-president, Swelect. The session's moderator will be Geetha Srimathi S., senior reporter, *The Hindu*.

There will be a session called "Fireside Chat: Building Champions, Building Cities: The Role of Sports Infrastructure". J. Meghanatha Reddy, IAS, Member-Secretary and CEO, Sports Development Authority of Tamil Nadu, will be the speaker, and K.C. Vijaya Kumar, sports editor, *The Hindu* will be the moderator.

In the session "Tier II & Tier III Cities: The Next Real Estate Frontier", the speakers are V.S. Sridhar, executive managing director at Cushman & Wakefield, Chennai, A. Shankar, India head, Government Advisory & Solutions, JLL India; Junaith Babu, chief operating officer, GSquare; and R. Vignesh, managing director, Shri Kailash Industrial and Logistics Parks. The moderator is Sangeetha Kandavel

The Green Energy partner for the event is Swelect and the Sports Ecosystem partners are SDAT and Tamil Nadu Champions Foundation. The event is supported by CREDAI Tamil Nadu, Lancor, Namma Family Group. The Strategic partner is Madras Management Association and the TV partners are Puthiya Thalaimurai, the Federal voice of the States.

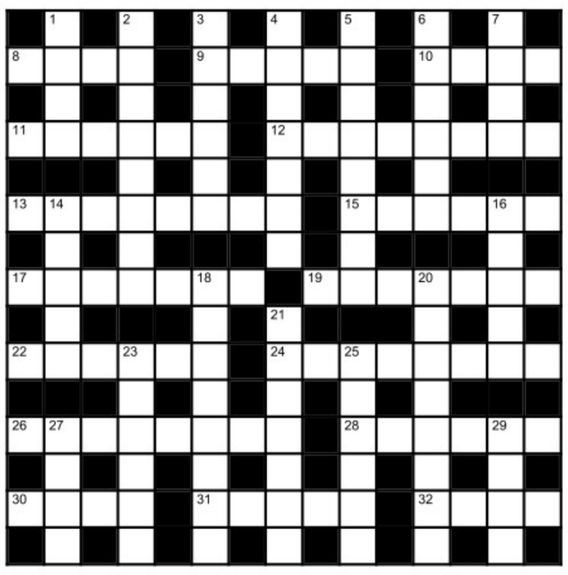
The event can be viewed live at *newsth.live/THRESU*

TH CROSSWORD + 14554

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Father has old wooden border on wall (4)
9 Untruth protected by a new foreigner (5)
10 Everyone at day's end is a friend (4)
11 Ground sesame condiment in Thai concoction (6)
12 Hot soldier goes after retired footballer's large animal (8)
13 Oddly, I tip moms showing hopefulness (8)
15 Pole with projectile is thin (6)
17 Fortune won back in city (7)
19 Around beginning of marathon, master trembles getting speech impediment (7)
22 Spill the beans about meat (6)
24 Helped sad sister jumping around after losing first race (8)
26 Wrongly nominates in absence of American names (8)
28 Males follow a copper's sharpness at work (6)
30 Legendary spirit? Sounds like gin! (4)
31 Silly! Sweet gal leaves stew with oriental eastern bird (5)
32 Ancient city destroyed to some extent (4)

Down

1 Boy leaves snake for mother (4)
2 Name from Earldom in Ickenham (8)
3 Washington mine has one animal (6)
4 Cover rejected by Ms Watson results in quandary (7)
5 In absence of final word of prayer, entertainment arranged shows worldwide means of communication (8)
6 A slice of bacon is more risky (6)
7 Tribe from Hispanic lands (4)
14 Dried fruit crop (5)
16 Old boy starting to eat sweet eclairs is very fat (5)
18 Lone rook flies around spectator (8)
20 Initially, Ministry of Space gets Ecuadorian capital for plane (8)
21 Attendant carries animal in corridor (7)
23 Old camping equipment's coverage (6)
25 What's used to weigh fish parts? (6)
27 Price adjusted after taking away right? Classic! (4)
29 Cupid's rose is destroyed (4)

SUDOKU

	8	9	7		6			
3			1				7	
						8	5	
		6	3			7	9	5
2		3				1		6
5	9	4			7	2		
	5	1						
	6				8			7
			9		1	5	6	

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

	P	V		S	T	P	G	L
B	A	R	I		E	A	R	T	H		E	R	O	S
	I		N		N		U		O		M		A	
C	R	E	D	I	T		M	A	S	T	I	F	F	S
			A		R		P		P		N			
E	M	P	L	O	Y	E	E		H	A	I	R	D	O
	A		O				T		O				O	
N	I	C	O	S	I	A		B	R	I	G	A	D	E
	N				N		S				O		G	
W	E	I	G	H	T		C	A	B	B	A	G	E	S
			U		E		O		O		L			
D	E	A	T	H	R	O	W		G	A	L	L	O	N
	E		T		E		L		A		O		M	
C	L	U	E		S	T	E	E	R		U	N	I	T
	S		R		T		D		T		T		T	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

7	1	3	2	9	8	4	5	6
4	6	8	5	3	7	2	9	1
9	2	5	6	1	4	8	7	3
5	7	2	1	4	9	6	3	8
1	9	4	3	8	6	7	2	5
8	3	6	7	5	2	9	1	4
3	8	9	4	7	5	1	6	2
6	4	1	9	2	3	5	8	7
2	5	7	8	6	1	3	4	9

FAITH

Importance of a guru

People often feel empathy for a child without parents, and in a similar way, even celestial beings show compassion towards those who lack spiritual guidance. Such individuals may sometimes feel as though they are lacking guidance in their lives. Gurus often have a natural devotion towards God, which flows in their hearts like the river Ganga. The term "guru" refers to someone who is trusted for their wisdom and guidance. Gurus do their best to help us, trying to overcome barriers when possible. They are seen as messengers of God and are often held in high esteem.

Sri Ramanujamji explained in a discourse that a guru can help a person follow the four main goals of life: *Dharma* (moral principles), *Artha* (wealth), *Kama* (desires), and *Moksha* (liberation). When it is said that a guru gently guides us by sharing dharmas, it means a guru teaches us how to live rightly.

The phrase "*Porul illarkku ivvulagam illai*" means that life without wealth is difficult, so a guru reminds us to seek it ethically. When talking about Kama, the guru helps us understand which desires are truly meaningful. The phrase "dwelling place of God is called *Veedu*" refers to the ultimate spiritual liberation, and with the blessings of a true teacher, one is guided towards this spiritual goal, called "moksha."

Dwar refers to an entry point. Haridwar is known as an entry to the holy shrine of Badrinath. Just as a mother cares for her child with pure affection, gurus share their blessings without expecting anything in return. Gurus strive to help us achieve our highest objectives and life's purposes.

Fed rate likely to weigh on gold, silver

While stronger dollar kept prices on leash in July, U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to keep interest rates unchanged is a factor that could act as a dampener for sentiment towards precious metals

B. Krishnakumar

Practically, there was nothing about precious metals in July. Both gold and silver were stuck in a range and the price action was devoid of any meaningful trend.

The strengthening of the U.S. dollar played a key role in keeping the precious metals' prices in check. The U.S. Federal Reserve's decision to keep the interest rates unchanged is another factor that could act as a dampener for the sentiment towards precious metals.

Comex gold closed almost unchanged at $3,342.3 at the end of July, representing a 0.82% gain. The performance of Comex silver was relatively more volatile with the white metal scaling a new 52-week high of $39.9 on July 23 before easing to $36.79 by the end of July. This represents a 1.3% gain on a month-on-month basis.

Mirroring the trend in the global markets, the MCX gold price closed 1.9% higher to settle at ₹98,778 per 10-gram at the end of July. MCX silver posted a much better performance, recording a 3.5% gain in July to settle at ₹1,09,998 per kilogram.

Contraction in volatility

Comex gold price is still unable to get out of the broad range of $3,120-$3,450. Only a breakout from this zone would set the tone for the next big move. The recent price action suggests progressive contraction in volatility in the price action. This typically is a forewarning to a big trending move ahead. A breach of the upper or lower end of the above range will trigger the next big move in gold.

As observed in prior months, Comex silver price gathered some traction after it moved above the upper end of the prior range at $34.5. The price also reached the target zone of $39.5-$40.5 mentioned last month. Silver is in a short-term pullback after the recent rally. This cool off from overbought zone is likely to persist in the near term. The long-term uptrend will resume once the ongoing pullback is complete. A move above $38.5 would suggest resumption of the uptrend. MCX gold price is still confined within the broad range of ₹91,000-₹1,01,000. A breakout from this range would trigger a strong move in the direction of the breakout.

Gold's next target

As observed last month, above ₹1,02,000, the price can head to next target zone of ₹1,08,000-₹1,10,000. MCX silver price gathered momentum in the first half of July and the price reached the target zone of ₹1,16,500-₹1,18,500 mentioned last month. MCX silver could stay sluggish in the short-term and drop to ₹1,01,500-₹1,02,500 appears likely.

To summarise, gold is likely to remain range bound but silver looks a bit vulnerable to a cool-off before resuming its long-term uptrend.

(The author is a Chennai based analyst / trader. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Next target: After crossing ₹1,02,000, gold can head to ₹1,08,000-₹1,10,000. REUTERS

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Not easy: Individuals face multiple challenges while claiming DTAA benefits. REUTERS

U.S. stocks and tax implications in India

Investing in the U.S. stock markets comes with a territory; the profit earnings potential might appear to be rosy but behind the scene lies mammoth challenge of complying with local tax laws

COMPLEX ALLURE

Vaishali R Venkat

Investing overseas, especially in the U.S., is not just about opening a broker account, picking a stock, clicking a 'buy now' button and enjoying double-digit returns.

It requires a thorough understanding of rules and regulations and tax implications of both the countries, open/hidden costs incurred and the logistics behind it. It is crucial to understand how to transact legally, without landing in trouble. Let's check this.

> Investing in U.S stocks needs a thorough understanding of rules and regulations and tax implications of both the countries, open/hidden costs incurred and the logistics behind

> All foreign assets, including the U.S. stocks, must be declared in Schedule FA of the ITR portal while filing returns; any non disclosure will attract heavy penalties

Legal framework

On February 4, 2004, Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) was introduced with a limit of $25,000. Later, owing to the then prevailing micro- and macro-economic factors, the LRS limit was revised in stages.

Currently, as per the LRS, Indian resident individuals, including minors, can remit up to $2,50,000 per financial year for permissible transactions such as education, travel and investments including the U.S. stocks. If your total foreign remittance in a financial year exceeds ₹10 lakh, Tax Collected at Source (TCS) will apply and the rate depends upon the purpose of remittance.

Withholding tax

If you receive dividend from a U.S. stock, it is treated as foreign income and will be subject to an upfront withholding tax of 25% in the U.S.

Further, the balance 75% of the dividend income is taxable in India as per slab rates.

However, thanks to the India-U.S. Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA), you can offset the dividend tax withheld in the U.S. against your tax liability in India, by claiming a foreign tax credit by filing Form 67. Again, it is easier said than done.

Individuals face multiple challenges while claiming DTAA benefits. For instance, exchange rates, time duration etc. viz. the fiscal year in the U.S. is different from that of India's April-March cycle. The DTAA is a treaty between the two countries to avoid double taxation by individuals with financial dealings in both the countries.

Capital gains

The U.S. does not levy capital gains tax for Indian residents who invest in U.S. stocks, if they are considered Non-resident Aliens (NRAs) for the U.S. tax purposes. But India taxes capital gains on your U.S. stock profit. If you have held U.S. stocks for more than two years (24 months), it is considered long-term capital gains (LTCG) and will be taxed at 20% tax plus surcharge and cess.

If you have held the shares for less than 24 months, it is considered short-term capital gains and is taxed according to your income slab rate.

Disclosure, compliance

As per the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015, non-disclosure of foreign assets is considered a violation and attracts a penalty of ₹10 lakh per year of default for an undisclosed foreign asset.

In extreme cases, you might have to face imprisonment of up to seven years. All foreign assets, including the U.S. stocks, must be declared in Schedule FA of the Income Tax Return (ITR) portal while filing returns.

Any non-disclosure of the U.S. stocks, be it even for a negligible amount of $1, will attract hefty penalties under the Black Money Act, 2015. Further, most people are under the impression that you should disclose details about the U.S. stock holdings only if the stocks are sold and the capital losses/gains are realised. That's not true. It is immaterial whether you sell the stock, or you just keep accumulating stocks for long-term.

Even if you buy a single U.S. stock for just $1 or even less, it is advisable to disclose it in under Schedule FA. Further, even if you receive a dividend of $1 or even less than that, it must be disclosed.

FA non-disclosure

Suppose, let's assume that owing to lack of awareness, you have not disclosed under Schedule FA. Against this backdrop, if your returns are already filed, the first option is voluntary disclosure via revised return (if applicable) and the second option is to file updated return (ITR-U) under Section 139(8A), applicable for the last two assessment years, but with a penalty.

In either case, it is advisable to seek the help of an experienced auditor to review past returns, fix errors and stay compliant from thereon. If a mistake of non-disclosure, whether deliberate or unintentional, has happened, early correction is safer than receiving a notice from the IT Department.

(The writer is an NISM & CRISIL-certified Wealth Manager and certified in NISM's Research Analyst module)

Pecking order for equity

THINKINVESTOR

If you were to choose a passive fund, then you need just one equity investment for each goal. This is because all products benchmarked to the same index will deliver similar returns.

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Managing wealth becomes relatively easy if you design a process to choose equity investments. Here, we discuss a pecking order for choosing equity investments based on the argument asset allocation is the most important step in the investment process.

Top-down process

The pecking order for choosing equity investments considers two factors – the choice of benchmark index and the choice of an investment product, given the benchmark index. Your first choice must be the broadest index available in the country in which you are investing. This is because you are making an asset class bet when you decide to allocate some of savings to equity investments. The default choice ought to be a passive product on the index. Your first choice must be exchange-traded funds (ETFs), as they are low-cost products. If ETF is unavailable, then your next choice must be an index fund.

Suppose you are unhappy with the products available on the broadest index in the investment destination, then move down to the large-cap index in the country; mid-caps and small-stocks can be risky for goal-based investments. Again, your default choice is an ETF. And if that is unavailable, then an index fund. The last choice is an active fund.

Default choice is a passive fund, as the decision reduces future regret. If you have the conviction in choosing an active fund appropriate for life goal, then you must do so. The choice must be based on your own analysis or research insights obtained from a fee-based investment advisor. Picking an active fund based on free advice or undisclosed ranking system published on websites may not be optimal.

Conclusion

If you were to choose a passive fund, then you need just one equity investment for each goal. This is because all products benchmarked to the same index will deliver similar returns. Suffice it to understand that a different passive fund for each goal is for operational efficiency, not a diversification measure. The argument is no different for an active fund, if you follow the pecking order discussed above. This is because large-cap active funds may have similar portfolios, though their returns need not be similar. But then, how many active funds can you have in your portfolio? True, choosing more active funds reduces your future regret of not selecting a fund that generates good returns. But more funds you have, more the clutter in your investment portfolio.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
HDFC Bank	10.90-24.00	10,846-14,384	2,169-2,877	Up to Rs 6,500
Tata Capital	11.50 onwards	10,996 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3.5%
State Bank of India	10.10-15.10	10,648-11,921	2,130-2,384	Up to 1.5% (Min. Rs 1,000; Max. Rs 15,000)
ICICI Bank	10.60 onwards	10,772 onwards	2,154 onwards	Up to 2%
Bank of Baroda*	10.40-18.20	10,722-12,751	2,144-2,550	Up to 2% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	9.99-22.00	10,621-13,809	2,124-2,762	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 5%
Bank of India	11.10-16.15	10,896-12,199	2,179-2,440	Up to 1% (Min. Rs 250; Max. Rs 15,000)
Canara Bank	9.95-15.40	10,611-12,000	2,122-2,400	Up to 0.25% (Max. Rs 2,500)
Punjab National Bank	10.50-17.05	10,747-12,440	2,149-2,488	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	10.15 onwards	10,660 onwards	2,132 onwards	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.99 onwards	11,120 onwards	2,224 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	10.35-14.45	10,710-11,751	2,142-2,350	Upto 1% (Max. Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	10.00-31.00	10,624-16,485	2,125-3,297	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	9.85-12.90	10,587-11,351	2,117-2,270	0.50%-1%
Indian Overseas Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 0.75%
UCO Bank	10.20-13.45	10,673-11,492	2,135-2,298	Upto 1% (Min. Rs 750)
IDFC FIRST Bank	9.99 onwards	10,621 onwards	2,124 onwards	2%
Bank of Maharashtra	9.00-13.80	10,379-11,582	2,076-2,316	Up to 1% (Max. Rs 10,000)
Central Bank of India	10.10-11.90	10,648-11,097	2,130-2,219	Up to 1%
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.5%

**Interest concession of 0.10% to customers opting for group credit life insurance.

Car Loans

Rates and Charges		Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years	(% of loan amount)
Name of Lender	**Interest Rate (%)**	**EMI (Rs)**	**Processing fee**
Union Bank of India	7.80-9.70	10,090 - 10,550	Up to Rs 1,000
Punjab National Bank	7.85-9.70	10,102 - 10,550	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.15-11.70	10,174 - 11,047	Up to Rs. 2,000
Bank of India	8.00-12.15	10,138 - 11,160	Up to 0.25% (Rs. 2,500 - Rs. 10,000)
UCO Bank	7.60-10.25	10,043 - 10,685	0.50% (Rs 5,000)
State Bank of India	8.90-9.95	10,355 - 10,611	Rs 750 - Rs 1,500
IDBI Bank	8.30-9.15	10,210 - 10,416	Rs 2,500
Bank of Maharashtra*	7.70-12.00	10,067 - 11,122	0.25% of loan (max. up to Rs. 15,000)
Indian Overseas Bank	7.80-12.00	10,090 - 11,122	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	9.10 onwards	10,403 onwards	Up to 2%
HDFC Bank	9.20 onwards	10,428 onwards	Up to 1% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 9,000)
Karnataka Bank	9.16-11.64	10,418 - 11,031	Up to 0.60% (Rs 2,500 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	10.00 onwards	10,624 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind Bank**	7.75-14.25	10,078 - 11,699	0.25% (Rs 1,000-Rs 15,000)
Indian Bank	7.75-9.85	10,078 - 10,587	Rs. 1000
Central Bank of India	7.85-9.45	10,102 - 10,489	0.50% of loan amount (Rs. 2,000 - Rs.20,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing home loan borrowers, other existing customers with at least 6 months of relationship with bank
**Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on July 30 **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

BEIJING

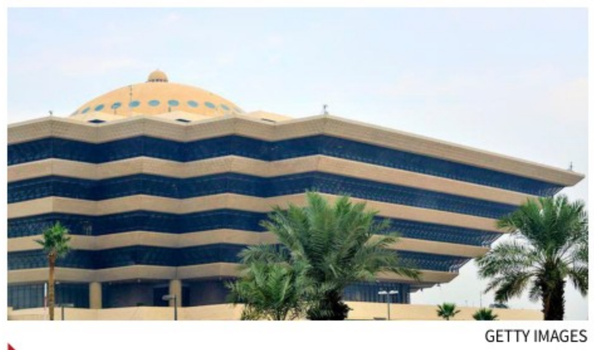
China, Russia start three-day joint naval drills in Sea of Japan

AP

China and Russia began joint naval drills in the Sea of Japan on Sunday as they seek to reinforce their ties and counterbalance what they see as a U.S.-led global order. The "Joint Sea-2025" exercises kicked off in waters near the Russian port of Vladivostok and would last for three days, China's Defence Ministry said on Sunday. AFP

RIYADH

Four Somalis and three Ethiopians among 8 executed by Saudi Arabia



GETTY IMAGES

Saudi Arabia executed eight people in a single day, state media said, amid a surge in the use of the death penalty in the Gulf monarchy particularly over drug-related convictions. Four Somalis and three Ethiopians were executed "for smuggling hashish into the country". One Saudi man was executed for the murder of his mother. AFP

MOSCOW

Fire at Sochi oil depot in Russia put out after Ukrainian drone attack

AFP

A Ukrainian drone attack caused two oil tanks to catch fire at an oil depot in Sochi in southern Russia but the blazes were later extinguished, local authorities said on Sunday. Russia's air defence units destroyed 93 Ukrainian drones overnight, including one over the Krasnodar region and 60 over the Black Sea. REUTERS

ADEN

At least 54 migrants dead, 100 missing as boat sinks off Yemen

REUTERS

At least 54 migrants died and more than 100 were still missing when a boat sank off Yemen's coast in bad weather on Sunday, medics said. Around 150 people, many of them Ethiopians, were believed to be on board the vessel. A police source said "the boat was heading for the coast of (Abyan) province". REUTERS, AFP

Renewed clashes in south Syria kill four

Agence France-Presse
DAMASCUS

Renewed sectarian clashes in southern Syria's Druze-majority Sweida province killed at least four persons on Sunday, a war monitor said, in the first deadly incident since a ceasefire last month.

The province witnessed deadly clashes between Druze fighters and Sunni Bedouins in July that drew the intervention of government forces and tribal fighters who came to support the Bedouins.

A ceasefire put an end to the week of bloodshed – which killed 1,400 people – but the situation remained tense, flaring into violence again on Sunday.

Court begins Hasina's trial over crimes against humanity

Prosecution calls Bangladesh former PM the 'nucleus of all crimes' with regard to the violent suppression of the 2024 protests; her two top aides have been named co-accused in the case

Press Trust of India
DHAKA

Bangladesh's International Crimes Tribunal (ICT) on Sunday commenced the trial of deposed Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina in absentia over crimes against humanity related to the violent suppression of the 2024 student-led protests.

The interim government-appointed Chief Prosecutor, Tajul Islam, in his opening statement, described Ms. Hasina as the "nucleus of all crimes" and called for the maximum penalty.

Tipping point: Last year's student-led protests had toppled Sheikh Hasina's Awami League government on August 5, 2024. AFP

The prosecution also named Ms. Hasina's two top aides – former Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan Kamal and former Inspector General of Police Chowdhury Abdullaah Al Mamun – as the co-accused in the case.

The ICT commenced the proceedings against Ms. Hasina on several charges, with the major one being killings and tortures to tame last year's Students Against Discrimination (SAD)-led violent street campaign that eventually toppled her Awami League government on August 5, 2024.

While Ms. Hasina and Mr. Kamal are being tried in absentia, Mr. Mamun is in custody and has agreed to be the "approver" in the case.

The prosecution said it would present testimonies from individuals injured during the protests and eyewitnesses to the violence in the coming days.

At least 33 Gazans killed by Israeli fire while seeking aid

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli forces killed at least 33 Palestinians seeking food on Sunday in Gaza, according to hospital officials and witnesses, who described facing gunfire as hungry crowds surged around aid sites, as the malnutrition-related death toll also rose. Two hospitals in southern and central Gaza reported receiving bodies from routes leading to the Israeli-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation aid sites.

Three Palestinian eyewitnesses said that shootings occurred on the routes, which are in military zones secured by Israeli forces. They said they saw soldiers open fire on hungry crowds advancing toward troops.

Minor relief: A Palestinian man feeds lentil soup to a child in the Daraj neighbourhood in Gaza City on Sunday. AFP

Meanwhile, far-right Israeli minister Itamar Ben-Gvir visited and prayed at Jerusalem's most sensitive holy site on Sunday, triggering regional condemnation and fears that the provocative move could further escalate tensions.

The area, which Jews call the Temple Mount, is home to the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the third-holiest site in Islam. During his visit to the compound, Mr. Ben-Gvir called for Israel to annex the Gaza Strip and encourage Palestinians to leave, reviving rhetoric that has complicated negotiations to end the war.

Trump writes to 17 pharma CEOs seeking a cut in drug prices

Lalit K. Jha
WASHINGTON

In a rare and direct move, U.S. President Donald Trump has personally written to 17 top pharmaceutical CEOs – including Indian-American Vasant Narasimhan, MD and CEO of Novartis – demanding an urgent action to bring down skyrocketing drug prices in the United States.

The letters, signed by the President and disclosed at a White House briefing on Thursday, give companies time until September 29, 2025, to commit to offering Americans the same prices they charge in Europe and other developed nations. The announcement, delivered by White House press secretary Karoline Leavitte, marks a significant escalation in the administration's war on what it calls "abusive drug pricing practices."

Donald Trump

"For too long," Ms. Leavitte told reporters, "Americans have paid more than triple for the same life-saving medications compared to other countries. President Trump says this injustice ends now."

Four demands

The letter addressed to Dr. Narasimhan and his peers includes four binding demands: extend global parity pricing to Medicaid, apply fair pricing to new drugs, redirect overseas profits to American patients, and enable direct consumer purchases at internationally benchmarked prices.

Each letter was tailored but echoed the same urgent message: the days of global freeloading on American innovation are over.

"This unacceptable burden on hardworking American families ends with my administration," Mr. Trump wrote, warning companies that if they fail to comply, the White House will "deploy every tool in our arsenal."

Among the many recipients of these letters is Novartis CEO Vasant Narasimhan, a U.S.-trained physician who has led the Swiss pharmaceutical giant since 2018. While Novartis is headquartered in Basel, Switzerland, it derives substantial revenue from U.S. patients and government programmes.

Human story

Behind the policy is a human story. During the briefing, Ms. Leavitte read a letter from a mother in Ohio who struggles to afford insulin for her son, even while working two jobs. "This is about people," she said. "Families are being forced to choose between rent and medicine."

In his letter, Mr. Trump said the unacceptable burden on hardworking American families ends with his administration. "Most proposals the Trump administration has received to resolve this critical issue promised more of the same, shifting blame and requesting policy changes that would result in billions of dollars in handouts to industry," he said.

"Moving forward, the only thing I will accept from drug manufacturers is a commitment that provides American families immediate relief from the vastly inflated drug prices and an end to the free ride of American innovation by European and other developed nations. Accordingly, I'm calling on Eli Lilly and Company and every manufacturer doing business in our great country to take the following actions within the next 60 days: extend the most favoured nation pricing to Medicaid; guarantee most favoured nation pricing for newly launched drugs; return increased revenues abroad to American patients and taxpayers; provide for direct purchasing at most favoured nation pricing," Mr. Trump wrote.

(This article is published in an arrangement with 5WH)

Pakistan backs Iran's nuclear programme for peace purposes

Press Trust of India
ISLAMABAD

Pakistan and Iran are aiming to achieve the target of $10 billion in annual trade

Pakistan on Sunday supported Iran's right to develop nuclear capability for peaceful purposes, as the two sides signed several agreements to expand cooperation in multiple fields.

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian, who arrived in Islamabad on Saturday met Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif at his official residence. At a joint press conference following their meeting, Mr. Sharif emphasised that Iran has the right to the peaceful use of nuclear energy, which has been at the centre of the ongoing tensions with Israel.

Mr. Sharif said the two sides have signed several MoUs and made commitments and hoped that they would be transformed into agreements. He said Pakistan and Iran are aiming to achieve the target of $10 billion in annual trade.

Sport

Rahil and Savion steal the spotlight

MOTORSPORTS

Sports Bureau
COIMBATORE

Rahil Pillarisetty and Savion Sabu hogged the limelight with contrasting victories in the two premier Pro-Stock categories as the Rolon Round of the MRF MMSC FMSCI Indian National Motorcycle Racing Championship concluded at the Kari Motor Speedway on Sunday.

While Rahil (RACR Castrol Power1) fought off a strong challenge to win the Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open race, Savion swept to a comfortable victory, for Mad Rabbit Racing team.

Daniel Lalhriatkima and Johring Warisa scripted history of sorts by delivering a first double podium for Yakuza Racing India.

The podium: Savion, flanked by second-placed Mohan, left, and third-placed Soory. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Daniel finished first and Johring came in third behind Hari Haran.

The results (provisional – all 10 laps unless mentioned):
Pro-Stock 301-400cc Open: Race-2: 1. Rahil Pillarisetty (RACR Castrol Power 1) (12mins, 06.332secs); 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (Petronas TVS Racing) (12:08.080); 3. Rajini Krishnan (RACR Castrol Power 1) (12:08.813).

Pro-Stock 165-200cc Open: Race-2 (6 laps): 1. Savion Sabu (Mad Rabbit Racing) (07:53.791); 2. Mohan Babu (Rockers Racing) (08:04.778); 3. Soorya PM (LG Racing) (08:08.914).

Super Stock 165cc Intermediate: Race-2: 1. Raj Kumar (Motul Sparks Racing) (14:05.693); 2. Mohmmed Samrul Zubair (Motul Sparks Racing) (14:10.424); 3. Kamal Navas (Rockers Racing) (14:20.307).

Stock 301-400cc (Novice): Race-2 (3 laps): 1. Varun Patil (Mad Rabbit Racing) (13:30.012); 2. Raivat Dhar (MAI Racing) (13:35.235); 3. Tanay Gaikwad (Motul Sparks Racing) (13:35.649).

Stock 165cc (Novice): Race-2: 1. Daniel Lalhriatkima (Yakuza Racing India) (14:44.900); 2. R. Hari Haran (RACR Castrol Power 1) (14:44.973); 3. Johring Warisa (Yakuza Racing India) (14:47.551).

Petronas TVS India One-Make Championship: Expert (RR 310): Race-2: 1. Samrul Zubair (13:01.120); 2. R.S. Abdul Basim ((13:01.970); 3. P. Mohan Babu (13:08.384).

Rookie (Apache RTR 200): Race-2 (7 laps): 1. Hari Haran (10:20.524); 2. A. Joshua (10:28.966); 3. S. Steve Waugh Sugi (10:29.321).

Electric RTR (6 laps): 1. Sarthak Chavan (07:14.816); 2. Chiranth Vishwanath (07:18.552); 3. Rakshith Dave (07:30.791).

Idemitsu Honda India Talent Cup: Honda CB 300F: Race-2: 1. Raivat Dha (13:58.576); 2. B.A. Tejash (13:58.587); 3. P. Swaroop Krishna (14:10.268).

Imperia should make amends in Royal Revive Plate

HYDERABAD: The four-year-old filly Imperia, who ran third in her last outing, should make amends in the Royal Revive Plate, the chief event of Monday's (Aug. 4) races.

1 SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (DIV. I) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), no whip, 12.35 p.m.: 1. Aquatone (4) Abhay Singh 56, 2. Golden Aura (5) H.M. Akshay 56, 3. Real Thalaivaa (9) B.R. Kumar 56, 4. Suryavanshi (10) Surya Prakash 56, 5. Blue Candy (3) Nakhat 54.5, 6. French Lady (1) G. Naresh 54.5, 7. Gusto's Baby (7) Akshay K 54.5, 8. Nyanza (12) Rafique Sk. 54.5, 9. Special Star (2) P. Sai K 54.5, 10. Star Of Opera (6) Mukesh K 54.5, 11. Victoria Bella (11) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5 and 12. Whistledown (8) Ashad Asbar 54.5.

1. GUSTO'S BABY, 2. VICTORIA BELLA, 3. SPECIAL STAR

2 PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. I) (1,100m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 1.05: 1. DUBAI TOUCH (1) Neeraj 60.5, 2. Anemoi (12) A.A. Vikrant 60, 3. Dashing Charm (7) Ashad Asbar 59, 4. Dontblockmyway (9) Vivek G 58.5, 5. Her Ladyship (6) Kuldeep Sr. 57, 6. Mexican Wave (8) R.S. Jodha 57, 7. Golden Unicorn (11) P. Sai K 54.5, 8. City Cruise (4) Abhay Singh 54, 9. Amboseli (5) Kuldeep Jr. 53, 10. Sunny Day (2) P. Ajeeth K 52.5, 11. Blazing Saddle (3) Ajay K 52 and 12. Una Paloma Blanca (10) Surya Prakash 50.

1. DUBAI TOUCH, 2. DASHING CHARM, 3. AMBOSELI

3 SULTAN PHEROZE PLATE (DIV. II) (1,200m), (Terms) Maiden, 3-y-o only (Cat. II), no whip, 1.35: 1. Beast Master (–), 2. Onslaught (3) H.M. Akshay 56, 3. Sound Wave (7) Mukesh K 56, 4. Bestie (6) Md. Ekram 54.5, 5. Desert Flower (8) Gaurav 54.5, 6. Golden Bourbon (5) Kuldeep Sr. 7. Infinia (2) Ashad Asbar 54.5, 8. Kitsune (4) B.R. Kumar 54.5, 9. Moonlite Rose (10) Vivek G 54.5, 10. Timeless Elegance (1) Md. Ismail 54.5 and 11. Turiya (9) Akshay K 54.5.

1. MOONLITE ROSE, 2. TURIYA, 3. INFINIA

4 THREE WISHES PLATE (DIV. I) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), 2.05: 1. Always Special (5) Surya Prakash 60, 2. Exponent (1) Nakhat Singh 60, 3. Golden Inzio (6) Ajay K 60, 4. Politics (7) G. Naresh 60, 5. Balahaka (8) P. Sai K 58.5, 6. Iconic Star (3) A.A. Vikrant 58, 7. N R I Star (10) Varun 58, 8. Nav Lakhaa (2) Rafique Sk. 56.5, 9. Niloufer The Great (4) H.M. Akshay 55.5 and 10. Deccan Ranger (9) Shivansh 54.

1. GOLDEN INZIO, 2. ALWAYS SPECIAL, 3. DECCAN RANGER

5 P.G. REDDY MEMORIAL CUP (1,600m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 40 to 65 (Cat. II), 2.40: 1. China Town (5) P. Ajeeth K 60.5, 2. Dapper Look (1) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Gloria (7) Ashad Asbar 56, 4. Winning Attitude (2) Surya Prakash 56, 5. Crimson Rose (6) Varun 55, 6. Briar Ridge (4) B. Nikhil 51.5 and 7. Corte Madera (3) Vivek G 50.

1. DAPPER LOOK, 2. GLORIA, 3. CORTE MADERA

6 PALAMPET PLATE (DIV. II) (1,100m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.15: 1. Silver Lining (2) Sonu K 60.5, 2. Shah Of Iran (11) H.M. Akshay 60, 3. Pacific Heights (9) Vivek G 59, 4. Bold Beauty (5) S. Shareef 58.5, 5. Zuza (10) Ashad Asbar 58.5, 6. Star Cruise (7) B. Nikhil 57, 7. Glimmer Of Hope (1) Gaurav 55, 8. Lady Jane (3) Md. Ekram 53.5, 9. Bold Indian (6) Md. Ismail 52.5, 10. Battle On (8) Ajay K 52, 11. Sadiya (4) Kuldeep Jr. 52 and 12. N R I Desire (12) Varun 51.

1. PACIFIC HEIGHTS, 2. ZUZA, 3. BATTLE ON

7 BASARA CUP (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 20 to 45 (Cat. III), 3.50: 1. Walking Thunder (9) Ashad Asbar 61.5, 2. Assured Success (11) Kuldeep Sr. 59, 3. Beverley (10) Shivansh 58.5, 4. Alpine Girl (4) Kuldeep Jr. 58, 5. Calabasas (7) Md. Ekram 58, 6. Caraxes (6) Md. Ismail 57, 7. N R I Triple Power (1) Varun 57, 8. Hawk Wing (3) G. Naresh 56.5, 9. London Bell (5) Abhay Singh 55, 10. Secret Option (2) P. Sai K 52.5, 11. The Purpose (12) H.M. Akshay 52.5 and 12. Dhanadeepa (8) B. Nikhil 50.

1. WALKING THUNDER, 2. CALABASAS, 3. BEVERLEY

8 ROYAL REVIVE PLATE (1,400m), 3-y-o and upward, rated 60 to 85 (Cat. II), 4.25: 1. D Minchu (3) H.M. Akshay 61, 2. Encore (7) R.S. Jodha 59.5, 3. Imperia (1) P. Ajeeth K 59.5, 4. Brooklyn Beauty (8) Shivansh 58.5, 5. Lucky Zone (5) Surya Prakash 58.5, 6. Darling's Boy (2) Sonu K 58, 7. Decoy (9) Mukesh K 58, 8. Best Buddy (12) Md. Ekram 56.5, 9. Strauss (11) B. Nikhil 56, 10. Annhilator (6) Kuldeep Sr. 55, 11. Dyanoosh (10) A.A. Vikrant 54.5, 12. Kingston (13) Abhay Singh 53.5, 13. Fly To The Stars (14) Rafique Sk. 52 and 14. Malibu (4) Kuldeep Jr. 50.

1. IMPERIA, 2. BROOKLYN BEAUTY, 3. DECOY

9 THREE WISHES PLATE (DIV. II) (1,400m), 4-y-o and upward, rated upto 25 (Cat. III), - 5.00: 1. Desert Sultan (9) B.R. Kumar 60, 2. Flashing Memories (6) R.S. Jodha 60, 3. Muaser (7) P. Ajeeth K 60, 4. Most Beautiful (8) Shivansh 59, 5. Ilene (4) Varun 58.5, 6. Club Queen (5) Nakhat 58, 7. Cape May (10) Md. Ekram 57.5, 8. Shubhrak (3) A.A. Vikrant 55, 9. Blue Brigade (2) Kuldeep Sr. 54.5 and 10. Silver Arrow (1) P. Sai K 54.5.

1. DESERT SULTAN, 2. FLASHING MEMORIES, 3. SHUBHRAK

Day's Best: GUSTO'S BABY

Jackpot: (i) 1,2,3,4 & 5, (ii) 5,6,7,8 & 9.

Mini Jackpot : (i) 3,4,5 & 6, (ii) 6, 7,8 & 9.

Treble: (i) 2, 3 & 4, (ii) 4, 5 & 6, (iii) 7, 8 & 9.

Tanala : All races.

WORKHORSE

Siraj was the first to say he would play at The Oval, says Morkel

PTI

India's bowling coach Morne Morkel revealed that Mohammed Siraj was fielded as he wanted to play in The Oval Test. "I'm very happy for Siraj that he is getting recognition. There were conversations with him before the game [over his workload] and he was the first to say that he would play," Morkel said after the fourth day's play.

WARRIOR SPIRIT

Woakes is ready to put his body on the line for England, reveals Root

GETTY IMAGES

Chris Woakes, who dislocated his left shoulder on the first day of the fifth Test, is ready to bat in the second innings if the need arises, Joe Root confirmed. "He (Woakes) is in huge pain. We have seen in the series how Rishabh Pant batted with a broken foot. Woakes is ready to put his body on the line for England," Root said.

PHENOMENAL

Root becomes the first batter to cross 6000 runs in WTC history

GETTY IMAGES

England's Joe Root on Sunday became the first batter in World Test Championship history to cross the 6000-run mark during his display on Sunday. With 21 centuries and 23 fifties in 69 matches in the WTC, Root is ahead of Australia's Steve Smith (4278, 55 Tests) and Marnus Labuschagne (4225, 53 Tests).

GOOCHSPEAK

'A series like this with a lot of quality cricket is good for Tests'

AFP

It's been an amazing series and really, really good for Test cricket because we know that franchise cricket is all over the place and the longest format is under pressure. A series like this with a lot of intrigue, a lot of quality cricket and a lot of passion from both teams is a good advertisement — Former England skipper Graham Gooch

Root, Brook take England closer to record chase

The two add 195 for the fourth wicket; Siraj dropping the latter on 19 hurts the visitors who stage a late fightback; the home team needs 35 runs on the final day with four wickets in hand

INDIA IN ENGLAND

Shayan Acharya
LONDON

As Joe Root and Jacob Bethell walked out for the final session, not many expected India to fight back. Until then, Root and Harry Brook made batting look easy as the hosts inched closer to script a record run chase The Oval on the fourth day of the fifth Test.

But 30 minutes into the post-tea session on Sunday, things changed dramatically as England lost two quick wickets and was struggling at 339 for six, still 35 runs away from the victory, before rain forced an early end.

With another fifth-day finish loading, England would be disappointed that it complicated things at the fag end after Root and Brook's hundreds put it on course.

In overcast conditions, the ball moved a lot as both Mohammed Siraj and Prasidh Krishna put England under enormous pressure. The inexperienced Bethell fell to a rash shot, and things spiced up further as the set Root nicked one behind the stumps, soon after completing his 39th Test ton and third of the series.

Sudden wickets meant England lower-middle order was caught off guard as both Jamie Smith and Jamie Overton spent a few nervy moments, seeing off Prasidh and Siraj before rain interrupted, much to the home team's relief.

India would be desperate to snare the last four wickets and board the flight back home, having drawn the series.

Historically, The Oval is considered a difficult venue for fourth-innings run chases, with a target in excess of 200 being overhauled only six times.

However, earlier in the day, England dominated as Root and Brook regrouped after the home team lost two early wickets in Ollie Pope and Ben Duckett in the opening session.

Brook's stint, too, would have ended at 19 as he mistimed a short ball from Prasidh to fine-leg, where Siraj completed the catch but eventually ended up stepping over the boundary rope. While it was a reprieve for Brook, Siraj, who had just taken the field after a long eight-over spell, was visibly upset.

Uninspiring captaincy

And Brook made it count. Making the most of uninspiring captaincy, some bizarre decisions – the major being not bowling a spinner for a long time – and the bowlers looking fatigued, Root and Brook produced a 195-run partnership.

Though Brook edged one between the slip and gully in the post-lunch session, no damage was done. After a couple of disappointing outings, Brook let his willow do the talking at the critical juncture and brought up his 10th Test century. It was also the fastest fourth-innings hundred against India. He looked at ease until an unforced error handed India the breakthrough.

It seemed England was in control of the game by then. But not quite. The Indian bowling unit shrugged off the disappointment, and despite sending down the maximum number of overs for India in the series, Siraj steamed in. Along with Prasidh, Siraj ensured India lived to fight another day.

Protagonists: Prasidh kept India in the hunt by sending back Root after the England batting mainstay threatened to take the game away in the company of Brook. PTI & AP

SCOREBOARD

INDIA — 1ST INNINGS
224 in 69.4 overs
ENGLAND — 1ST INNINGS
247 in 51.2 overs
INDIA — 2ND INNINGS
396 in 88 overs
ENGLAND — 2ND INNINGS
Target 374

Zak Crawley b Siraj 14 (*36b, 2x4*), Ben Duckett c Rahul b Prasidh 54 (*83b, 6x4*), Ollie Pope lbw b Siraj 27 (*34b, 5x4*), Joe Root c Jurel b Prasidh 105 (*152b, 12x4*), Harry Brook c Siraj b Akash 111 (*98b, 14x4, 2x6*), Jacob Bethell b Prasidh 5 (*31b, 1x4*); Jamie Smith (batting) 2 *(17b)*, Jamie Overton (batting) 0 *(8b)*; Extras (b-1, lb-8, nb-1, w-11): 21; Total (for six wkts. in 76.2 overs): 339.

FALL OF WICKETS

1-50 (Crawley, 13.5 overs), 2-82 (Duckett, 22.4), 3-106 (Pope, 27.3), 4-301 (Brook, 62.4), 5-332 (Bethell, 70.4), 6-337 (Root, 72.6).

INDIA BOWLING

Akash 20-4-85-1, Prasidh 22.2-3-109-3, Siraj 26-5-95-2, Washington 4-0-19-0, Jadeja 4-0-22-0.

Rhodes pleased with the growth of surfing in India

Tarun Shastry
CHENNAI

Former South Africa cricketer and brand ambassador for the Surfing Federation of India (SFI), Jonty Rhodes, expressed his happiness in India's growing surfing culture and singled out rising star Kamali Moorthy for special praise. He was speaking during a media interaction at the opening ceremony of the fourth Asian Surfing Championships in Mamallapuram on Sunday.

"I've been associated with the SFI since 2013," said Rhodes. "My role has been to promote surfing not just as a sport, but as a lifestyle, and what's been most heartening is the transformation within these communities."

Rhodes reserved special praise for 15-year-old Kamali. "Kamali is someone I've been watching for years. I first saw her when she was just four. Every time I visited Mahabs, there she was – working relentlessly. Now, to see her take the athlete's oath and represent India on the international stage is just incredible. She hasn't just been handed opportunities – she's earned them," Rhodes said.

Sense of satisfaction: SFI brand ambassador Rhodes is heartened by the promotion of surfing. R. RAGU

The fielding great also shared his joy over the Proteas breaking the jinx of not winning a global title by clinching the ICC World Test Championship in June.

"It was incredibly emotional. After years of coming close and never crossing the line, to beat Australia in a final was huge. Critics questioned who South Africa had played, but we don't get to play as much Test cricket anymore – mainly due to financial and commercial priorities.

"Winning an ICC trophy under those constraints is a testament to the resilience of the team. As someone who went over a decade without silverware during my career, I'm delighted," said Rhodes.

He also felt resting Indian pace spearhead Jasprit Bumrah in the final Test against England at The Oval was the right move. "Two things about Bumrah stood out early in his career. First, his eagerness to learn – even when he wasn't in the playing XI during his first IPL season. Second is his unique bowling action. He's not conventional, and that gives him a critical edge. That delivery style of his makes life difficult for the batters. Given his workload and importance to Indian cricket, resting him was the right move," added Rhodes.

Norris wards off Piastri to win Hungarian GP

FORMULA ONE

Reuters
BUDAPEST

Lando Norris held off McLaren teammate Oscar Piastri to win the Hungarian Grand Prix on a one-stop strategy and slash the Australian's Formula One lead to nine points going into the August break.

Nail-biting race

Norris completed 39 of the 70 laps on a single set of hard tyres while Piastri stopped twice and closed a 12-second gap to just 0.6 at the finish, with a nail-biting chase to the chequered flag and a near-collision.

Fifth win

The win was Norris' fifth of the season, and third in the last four, to Piastri's six. It was also McLaren's seventh one-two in 14 races.

Distant third

George Russell took a distant third, 20 seconds down the road, to complete the Hungaroring podium for Mercedes and take his fifth podium of the season.

"I'm dead. I'm dead. It was tough," gasped Norris, who started in third place, with Piastri second, and then went down to fifth after being squeezed at the start. Ferrari's Charles Leclerc was a frustrated fourth, after starting on pole position but losing out with a two-stop strategy and a five-second penalty for erratic driving as Russell challenged. Fernando Alonso finished fifth for Aston Martin, ahead of Sauber's sixth-placed Brazilian rookie Gabriel Bortoleto.

Lance Stroll was seventh for Aston Martin ahead of Racing Bulls' Liam Lawson, with Red Bull's reigning champion Max Verstappen and Mercedes rookie Kimi Antonelli completing the top 10 scoring positions.

THE JOURNEY IN NUMBERS AFTER THE 70-LAP RACE AT THE HUNGARORING
Lights to flag
3 Piastri is one of three drivers (along with Pizzonia and Dumfries) to hold a 100% points-scoring record at the Hungarian GP
4 McLaren equals its longest streak of 1-2 finishes, having previously done so between the 1988 German and Belgian Grands Prix
10 Piastri becomes the first Australian to lead the drivers' championship for 10 successive races
26 McLaren goes level with Ferrari for most podiums at the Hungaroring
140 Leclerc now has the third-most starts with Ferrari, overtaking Massa
179 Stroll is level with Grosjean for fifth
200 McLaren becomes the second team (after Ferrari) to win 200 Grands Prix
on the list of most F1 starts without a win
200 Verstappen makes his 200th start with Red Bull, becoming only the second driver to reach that mark with a single team after Hamilton (246 with Mercedes)
Compiled by ANIRUDH VELAMURI

> I'm dead. I'm dead. It was tough
> **NORRIS**
> McLaren driver

The results:
1. Norris (McLaren) 1h:35m:21.231s, 2. Piastri (McLaren) +0.698s, 3. Russell (Mercedes) 21.916, 4. Leclerc (Ferrari) 42.560, 5. Alonso (Aston Martin) 59.040, 6. Bortoleto (Sauber) 66.169, 7. Stroll (Aston Martin) 68.174, 8. Lawson (Racing Bulls) 69.451, 9. Verstappen (Red Bull) 72.645.
+1 lap: 10. Antonelli (Mercedes), 11. Hadjar (Racing Bulls), 12. Hamilton (Ferrari), 13. Hulkenberg (Sauber), 14. Sainz (Willians), 15. Albon (Williams), 16. Ocon (Haas), 17. Tsunoda (Red Bull), 18. Colapinto (Alpine), 19. Gasly (Alpine).
DNF: Bearman (Haas).
Standings: Drivers: 1. Piastri 284, 2. Norris 275, 3. Verstappen 187, 4. Russell 172, 5. Leclerc 151.
Constructors: 1. McLaren 559, 2. Ferrari 260, 3. Mercedes 236, 4. Red Bull 194, 5. Williams 70.

INBRIEF

Anirudh-Ramkumar pair wins Lexington Challenger

Second seeds Anirudh Chandrasekar and Ramkumar Ramanathan clinched the doubles title in the $100,000 Challenger in Lexington, USA, with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Yu Hsiou Hsu and Tsung-Hao Huang in the final. The champion team collected 75 ATP points and $4,980. The runner-up got 50 points and $2,880. It was the 29th doubles title for Ramkumar. It was the 13th doubles title and third of the season for Anirudh, who was ranked a career-best 87.

Other result: $15,000 ITF women, Monastir, Tunisia: Doubles (semifinals): Alyssa Reguer (Fra) & Chenting Zhu (Chn) bt Valeria Bhunu (Zim) & Tanisha Kashyap 6-2, 7-6(8).

Indian doubles pairs finish runners-up in Brazil WTT

The top-seeded Indian pair of Manush Shah and Diya Chitale went down fighting to the Japanese duo of Satoshi Aida and Honoka Hashimoto 4-11, 11-8, 11-5, 5-11, 2-11 in the mixed doubles final of the WTT Star Contender tournament in Foz do Iguacu (Brazil) on Sunday. Earlier on Saturday, the men's duo of Manush and Manav Thakkar, also seeded No.1, lost to second seeds Benedict Duda and Dang Qui 3-11, 11-7, 7-11, 15-13, 5-11 in the summit clash.

Farhan and Chen reign supreme at Macau Open

Indonesia's Alwi Farhan proved too good for Malaysia's Justin Hoh, winning 21-15, 21-5 to claim the men's singles title at the Macau Open Super 300 badminton tournament on Sunday. China's Chen Yu Fei beat Line Christophersen of Denmark 21-17, 21-17 in the women's final.

Bhawna, Yatri assured of medals in u-22 Asian boxing

Bhawna Sharma and Yatri Patel were on Sunday assured of a medal after making the u-22 Asian boxing championships semifinals in Bangkok. In the women's 48kg, Bhawna eased past Vietnam's Ngoc Linh Chi Ngo while Yatri beat Keerththana Uthayakumar of Sri Lanka in the women's 57kg. Tanu, however, fell short against local hope Natnicha Chongprongklang in the 54kg. Among the u-19 men, Shivam and Mausam Suhag registered contrasting victories. In the 55kg category, Shivam dominated Turkmenistan's Bezirgen Annayev, while Mausam edged Kazakhstan's Nurkabyluly Mukhit in the 65kg category. However, Shubham suffered a 5-0 loss to Kazakhstan's Tortubek Adilet in the 60kg bout.

Lacky loses to Omarov in 110kg final in u-17 wrestling

Lacky, the Asian under-17 champion, took the silver medal after losing 6-4 to European champion Magomedrasul Omarov in the freestyle 110kg final at the World under-17 wrestling championships in Athens.

Antim to lead Indian women's team at wrestling Worlds

World championships bronze medallist Antim Panghal will lead India's challenge in the women's section at the World wrestling championships to be held in Zagreb, Croatia, from September 13 to 21. The wrestlers were picked following the selection trials held at the I.G. Stadium in Delhi on Sunday.

The squad: Ankush (50kg), Antim Panghal (53kg), Nishu (55kg), Tapasya (57kg), Neha (59kg), Manisha (62kg), Vaishnavi Patil (65kg), Radhika (68kg), Jyoti Berwal (72kg), Priya Malik (76kg).

Pass FC women wallop Legends de Sporting

Pass FC blanked Legends de Sporting FC 5-0 in the KSFA Karnataka Women's League football league on Sunday.

The results: Pass FC 5 (K. Ashika 7, 11, 57, P. Susmitha 39, Saloni 86) bt Legends de Sporting FC 0; Kickstart FC Bengaluru 3 (K.U. Spoorthi 54, Bibicha Devi 66, Kajol D' Souza 86) bt Roots FC 1 (Babita Devi 58); Kemp FC 2 (Mandala Anusha 13, Aadira Ghosh 55) bt BFC 1 (Rheanna Liz Jacob 57).

LIVE TELECAST

Cricket: England vs India: 5th Test, final day, Sony Sports Ten 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

Football: Durand Cup, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4 & 7 p.m.

Tennis: ATP Masters, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 4.30 a.m. (Tuesday)

I will play in more classical format tournaments now, says Gukesh

My recent performance in Zagreb was good in rapid. I still need to correct some mistakes in blitz, says the World champion

CHESS

K. Keerthivasan
CHENNAI

The reigning World chess champion D. Gukesh has played quite well in both classical and rapid tournaments this year, but somehow has been unable to get crucial breakthroughs.

After finishing second and third in two classical tournaments – Tata Steel (Wijk aan Zee, Netherlands) and Norway Chess (Stavanger) – Gukesh won the rapid section of the SuperUnited Rapid & Blitz in Zagreb, Croatia.

The 19-year-old, however, says he intends to play more classical tournaments in the second half of the year.

Looking ahead: Gukesh feels the World Cup, to be held in the country in October, will be huge for Indian chess. FILE PHOTO

"My last classical tournament was in Norway (May 26 to June 6). It was a decent tournament. [But] I have not played too many classical events," said Gukesh, who was the chief guest here on Sunday during the felicitation function, organised by Velammal Nexus to felicitate 19-year-old Ashish, an alumnus, who scaled Mount Everest.

"I played in Tata Steel in January. I finished tied first. It was good. In the next part of the year, I will be playing more classical. I am looking forward to that."

While expressing satisfaction in his play in classical and rapid, Gukesh admitted that he needs to improve in blitz. "My recent performance in Zagreb was good [first] in rapid. I still need to correct some mistakes in blitz. I think I am improving my performance," he said.

The chess World Cup, to be held in either Ahmedabad or Goa in October, according to Gukesh, will be huge for Indian chess.

"In chess, there are not many knockouts. World Cup is the biggest knockout [since 2021] tournament. It is going to be held in India after the Chennai Olympiad. It is going to be a big event in India and an important tournament for Indian chess," he added.

Inspiring

Gukesh said it's inspiring to witness Divya Deshmukh triumph in the women's World Cup in Batumi (Georgia) recently. "We basically grew up together, like playing the same tournaments right from when we were eight or nine years old, I think.

"It's actually really inspiring the way she won the World Cup because it's not a very easy tournament to win as you have to play for nearly a month. I've played the World Cup two times, so I know how difficult it is," he said.

Winning the FIDE Women's World Cup was stressful: GM Divya Deshmukh

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Grandmaster Divya Deshmukh has revealed that achieving the goal of winning the FIDE Women's World Cup title was "quite stressful" but she was determined to go all the way after the tough matches in the lead-up to the title clash against Koneru Humpy.

"It was quite stressful. Quite difficult at least because also it's such a long event. You have to keep up your stamina. You have to be resistant and you have to show up on the board every single day to give your best. Thankfully, I was never in a situation where I had to be in a must-win (situation). So, I don't know how I would have coped with that," said Divya in an interaction posted by FIDE on social media.

"I think from an emotional perspective, maybe, but the finals was incredibly difficult. The pressure, the nerves the toll that the entire tournament was taking and the feeling like you've come so far and now you cannot go back down so I would say it was quite difficult.

Grand occasion: Divya enjoys her moment in the spotlight with her parents. PTI

Never give up

"I think there was always some part of me that would never give up. So I always wanted to fight, but after I lost the second match I was quite disappointed or mainly because I got a good position at the opening." Beating GM D. Harika in a tough quarterfinals was a key motivation which helped her go all the way to the final.

"Harika was definitely quite strong, but I think because I had gone through (some tough games) by the time I got to Harika, I was already quite sure.

"I never had the thoughts of winning the tournament until I was in the finals.

"I knew that of course there's some part of you

> Harika was definitely quite strong, but I think because I had gone through (some tough games) by the time I got to Harika, I was already quite sure

that always, you know, wants (to be) the best, but I was just trying to survive.

Truly special

On whether achieving the GM title was bigger than winning the tournament, she said, "I think Grandmaster title is something that would have eventually come. I think the fact that both of them happen at the same time makes it all the more special."

On what her mother told her following the emotional hug after winning the title, Divya said, "She told me to have confidence in myself and to manage my time."

Sreeshankar leaps to title in Kazakhstan

Fine form: Sreeshankar secured the title with an eflfort of 7.94m on his opening jump. X @MEDIA_SAI

ATHLETICS

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Long jumper Murali Sreeshankar clinched his third straight title at the Qosanov Memorial Athletics Meet in Almaty, Kazakhstan, on Saturday after coming back from a long injury lay-off.

The 26-year-old produced a winning leap of 7.94m on his opening attempt to secure the top spot at the World Athletics Continental Tour Bronze label (category C) meet.

His other efforts were 7.73m, 7.58m, 7.57m, 7.80m and 7.79m. He has a personal best of 8.41m.

This was Sreeshankar's third competition since returning from a knee injury, which he suffered in April last year.

He is yet to qualify for the Tokyo World Championships in September, for which the men's long jump qualification standard is 8.27m.

Namdhari flies past Air Force; Punjab beats Morning Star

On top: Namdhari made it two wins from as many games in Group-A. DEBASISH BHADURI

DURAND CUP

Sports Bureau
KOLKATA

A 10-man Namdhari FC rallied to beat Indian Air Force 4-2 in a high-scoring Durand Cup fixture at the Vivekananda Yuba Bharati Krirangan here on Sunday.

Namdhari topped Group-A with six points from two wins. Samuel pounced on a loose ball inside the box to put IAF ahead early.

Namdhari waited for around half an hour before Cledson Dasilva converted a penalty to equalise. Amandeep Singh secured the lead for Namdhari just before half-time. Then, Dharmpreet Singh made it 3-1 at the hour mark.

Namdhari suffered a setback as Manbir Singh was sent off in the 73rd minute for a reckless challenge. However, substitute Seilenthang Lotjem bulged the lead to 4-1 in the next minute. Sankit's 78th-minute goal proved only a consolation for IAF.

At the Sports Authority of India Stadium in Kokrajhar, Punjab FC fought back to beat Karbi Anglong Morning Star 2-1 in a Group-D match to begin its campaign with a win.

Joseph's spectacular goal put Karbi in the lead in the 69th minute. PFC bounced back through goals from Paramveer (73) and Konsam Singh (90+3).

The results: Group-A (Kolkata): Namdhari FC 4 (Cledson 37-p, Amandeep 45, Dharmpreet 60, Lotjem 74) bt Indian Air Force 2 (Samuel 7, Sankit 78).

Group-D (Kokrajhar): Punjab FC 2 (Paramveer 73, Konsam Singh 90+3) bt Karbi Anglong Morning Star 1 (Joseph 69).

Holder takes West Indies to thrilling last-ball victory

CRICKET

Associated Press
LAUDERHILL, US

Jason Holder took four wickets and then smashed a boundary off the final ball of the game to lift West Indies to a thrilling two-wicket victory over Pakistan and level the three-match Twenty20 cricket international series.

The West Indies also stumbled as Pakistan's spinners kept scoring difficult but Gudakesh Motie and Romario Shepherd kept them just about in the contest before Holder's heroics off Shaheen Shah Afridi's final delivery clinched it.

It is the first T20 victory for West Indies in seven matches, a span that includes a 5-0 series defeat to Australia.

Fresh from taking three wickets in Pakistan's 14-run win in the opening game at the same venue, Mohammad Nawaz took another three on Saturday, returning 3-14 from his four overs.

West Indies found scoring more than five-an-over difficult on the spin-friendly pitch and lost regular wickets.

Dramatic win: Holder hit a boundary off the last ball to help West Indies draw level in the series. AFP

When Roston Chase was teased into a big shot by Saim Ayub (2-20), West Indies had sunk to 70-5 in the 14th over.

Motie got the innings moving with his quickfire 28 from 20 balls before Shepherd chipped in with 15 from 11 balls to give West Indies a glimpse.

Needing eight runs from the final over, Afridi (1-31) removed Shepherd off the second ball, with Holder and new batter Shamar Joseph only able to score singles off the next three balls.

Afridi then bowled a wide to leave West Indies needing three runs from the final ball. Holder (16 from 10 balls) then found the gap at backward square to score the boundary they needed and end their six T20 match losing streak.

The scores: Pakistan 133/9 in 20 overs (Hasan Nawaz 40, Jason Holder 4/19, Gudakesh Motie 2/39) lost to West Indies 135/8 in 20 (Gudakesh Motie 28, Mohammad Nawaz 3/14, Saim Ayub 2/20). **Toss:** Pakistan; **PoM:** Jason Holder.